

Keizertimes

SECTION A

APRIL 15, 2016

\$1.00

More changes at Schoolhouse Square

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

It has already been quite the busy year at Schoolhouse Square.

Since Darren Bloch and his Bloch Properties company closed on a deal to purchase the shopping center in December, change has been happening at a rapid pace. The new B Fit gym opened in the former Office Depot space in late March, but that move meant the Anytime Fitness next door closed at the end of January.

As B Fit was opening, Big Town Hero Keizer closed, with owner Scott White citing

new state regulations regarding raised minimum wage as a key reason for the decision.

Starbucks is moving slightly south along River Road to the small strip mall recently vacated by five businesses next to Nancy's Burgers and Fries. That move has left the future of Mr. Video/LimeBerry in limbo.

GISI Marketing Group closed its location in Schoolhouse Square at the end of March, with signs in the office window confirming the news.

A new tenant for that space is expected to be announced soon, perhaps within the next week.

"We're making good progress. We would love to have everything filled."

— Darren Bloch,
Principal, Bloch Properties



For the last couple of weeks, a crew from Pfeifer Roofing has been on the roof of the former Roth's Fresh Market building. That has prompted



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
ABOVE: Work is being done on the roof at the former Roth's. LEFT: The sign on display in the window of the former GISI Marketing Group office in Schoolhouse Square.

more wondering if a new tenant is coming to the space, which has been vacant for nearly four years.

"There's nothing to announce," Bloch told the Keizertimes on Tuesday. "When we bought the property in December, the roof was in dire need of replacement. That has been on my calendar, just waiting for the right weather to do the

work. It's not being done for a specific client."

Bloch said a new tenant is expected to soon move into the space vacated by GISI, plus two adjoining vacant spaces.

As he has mentioned previously, Bloch is moving forward with plans to have a new pad building at the corner of River and Chemawa Roads, which would mean the demolition of the current building housing Starbucks. Please see CHANGES, Page A9

Wall pads at Wall Field

PAGE A2



Cab insurance issue dropped

PAGE A8



Gate not being closed at MHS

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

For Charles Anderson, the solution is simple: close the gate between McNary High School and the adjoining neighborhood to the west.

MHS principal Erik Jespersen isn't closing the gate students can walk through, either after walking to school from home or after parking in the neighborhood.

The two men — along with Sgt. Trevor Wenning from the Keizer Police Department — met for more than an hour April 6. After the meeting, Anderson announced he plans to file a formal complaint.

For Anderson, his concerns are the increased number of students parking along MacArthur Street, Newberg Drive and Max Court, sometimes doing illegal acts such as blocking driveways or fire hydrants. He brought up his concerns at the



KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson
A number of McNary High School students park their vehicles all along MacArthur Street, which has drawn the ire of some neighbors.

Please see GATE, Page A11

Holdover budget year predicted

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

John Teague wouldn't mind having another police officer on board.

But Keizer's police chief told the Keizer Long Range Planning Task Force on Monday he'll take what he is given.

Adding back officer positions to the Keizer Police Department has been discussed the last several

Please see BUDGET, Page A9



J. Teague

Housing 'dark days' are over, realtor says



By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Have you been looking to sell your home but been waiting for the perfect time?

Local realtor Amy McLeod with Keller Williams Capital City Realty has some advice for you, which she shared with members of the Rotary

Amy McLeod gave an update on the housing market on April 7.

KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

Club of Keizer April 7.

"What the heck are you people waiting for?" McLeod asked audience members.

Translation: this is the prime time to sell your current home.

McLeod said there is a shortage of homes to sell, which is good news for someone looking to either downsize or move into a new home.

"The next 24 months look doggone good for the market,"

she said. "It appears there is a sustained upward trajectory. The millennials are buying their first homes and the baby boomers are downsizing or retiring to a new home, or maybe purchasing a second home."

McLeod, who noted she was "so glad the dark days" of the recent housing bust are over, said the 25- to 34-year-old millennials are dominating the home purchases currently.

Please see McLEOD, Page A7



Feast or famine at the plate

PAGE A10

Bethell named Chamber director

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

The way Danielle Bethell sees it, her new job isn't new.

Bethell was named executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday. She starts her new position on April 18, taking the place of Christine Dieker, who announced her retirement back in December. Dieker will help her replacement through the end of April.

Please see CHAMBER, Page A7



D. Bethell



KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon Zaitz
Adam Krein and Angela Schaffers joined several hundred others at the annual Rotary Club of Keizer Go for the Gold dinner.

The Rotary Club of Keizer celebrated its 50th anniversary in style with its annual Go for the Gold Raffle Party on Saturday, April 9.

More than 250 attendees enjoyed a buffet dinner, a silent auction and a video presentation of the club's past 50

years of service in Keizer.

The grand prize of \$10,000 in gold and silver was won by Cindy Cowley of Salem. She plans to hold onto her prize.

"I've never had gold," said Cowley. The second prize, a \$1,200 travel

voucher, was won by Nanette Forster. The evening's 50/50 raffle netted Nathan McEachern more than \$1,150 in cash.

The event raised more than \$66,000 for the club's community projects.

For more photos see Page A5



MHS Baseball starts 1-2

PAGE A10



capitol CHEVROLET
capitol-chevy.com

NEW 2016 CHEVROLET
SILVERADO 1500 LT
5.3L V8 • 4X4 • TRAILER PKG
UP TO \$10,000 OFF MSRP!

2016 Silverado Price after \$3,500 factory rebate and \$6,347 Capitol discount. MSRP \$49,075. 4 at Vn #GG133533, GG128091, GF123721, GF124197. See dealership for details. * Art for illustration only • Subject to prior sale. Prices do not include license fees, title fees and \$100 Doc fees. Click for details. All financing on approved credit, with Tier 1, 2 & 3 with 651 and above credit rating. All sale prices on in stock units only. Expires 4/30/16

