

Keizertimes

SECTION A

APRIL 29, 2016

\$1.00

NOW ARRIVING: Holiday Inn Express at Keizer Station

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Perhaps you've heard this one before: a hotel is coming to Keizer Station.

Yes, such talk is running rampant again.

This time, however, there are some differences.

Jack Yarbrough confirmed this week he recently sold his vacant hotel lot at Keizer Station—between Panera Bread and Outback Steakhouse—to an experienced hotel operator, Cheo Tzeo.

Tzeo and his family worked with Yarbrough and realtor Pam Rushing from Coldwell Banker Commercial Mountain West Real Estate to

“I would like to start it in June. It will be nine or 10 months for construction.”

— Cheo Tzeo, Developer

purchase the property.

Though county records as of Monday still showed the most recent transaction being Yarbrough's purchase of the property for \$1,361,605 in March 2014, Rushing said a sale to Tzeo went through last week for \$1.25 million.



“I sold the property,” Yarbrough said. “They're pretty experienced operators. They are decent people. He's experienced. I think he'll be able to build a nice hotel. I got paid off last week.”

Rushing said Tzeo, a Vietnamese refugee who came

to the United States in the 1970s, first contacted her in January about the property.

“I'm excited for Keizer Station,” Rushing told the Keizertimes. “He is going to put in a Holiday Inn Express. He's getting it all approved. He has everything lined up.

He's an existing franchisee. He's going to put one in here. It's pretty exciting. He's been working with the city. He's really super nice.”

Tzeo said he has sold the Holiday Inn Express he used to operate in Canyonville and is focused on his upcoming Keizer project.

“I plan to build a hotel, a Holiday Inn Express,” he told the Keizertimes on Monday. “It is an excellent location. I've been looking for a location along I-5. This is the location I'm interested in.”

The hotel pad in Keizer Station, shown to be on a map as 42,000 square feet, has been

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Republican Congress debate
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Young grappler has star potential



By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

At age 11, wrestler Destiny Rodriguez is racking up awards and trophies that would make a senior high school wrestler green with envy.

In recent months, Destiny has won state championships in the collegiate, freestyle and Greco wrestling—also known as the Oregon Wrestling Association Triple Crown. She also traveled to the Reno World Championships earlier this month where she won her weight class in the girls division and took second in the boys division.

“Reno is different because there are a lot more elite wrestlers. It's not too different wrestling boys or girls because you have to wrestle hard with everybody,” Destiny said.

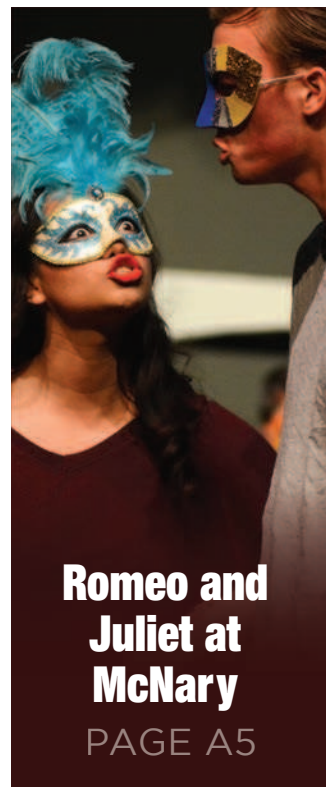
She has been wrestling since she was five years old and was inspired by relatives.

“My dad (Israel Rodriguez) wrestled and I knew I wanted to do it after seeing my cousin wrestle,” Destiny said.

While she started with McNary's Mat Club, she's since moved on to club wrestling with All-Phase and success hasn't eluded her. This year marks the second time

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Romeo and Juliet at McNary
PAGE A5



Iris Festival update
PAGE A3



Wood ready for a busy budget time

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Tim Wood hasn't found this first budget season to be too bad.

Wood was named Keizer's Finance Director in March following the retirement of Susan Gahlsdorf in January. While this is Wood's first year in charge of the budget process, he was Gahlsdorf's right hand man the previous six years. In other words, he was ready for the process.

“Susan did a good job



T. Wood

getting everything lined up,” Wood said on Tuesday, the day before the preliminary 2016-17 fiscal year budget was released. “There are not a lot of changes with the process this year. Oregon budget law dictates a lot of the process.

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Portraits for Keizer's next public mural selling well

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Portraits for Keizer's next public mural have proven to be popular.

As for getting people to paint those portraits? That's a different story.

Jill Hagen, mural project manager, gave an update during the April 26 Keizer Public Arts Commission (KPAC) meeting.

Before the meeting, Hagen laid out a one-fourth scale paper replica of the mural, which depicts various scenes from the Keizer Iris Festival Parade. The replica showed where the various images will be lined up when the mural gets put on the north wall of Town &



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
Jill Hagen points out some features of the upcoming mural to fellow Keizer Public Arts Commission members April 26.

Country Lanes this summer.

KPAC members liked what they saw.

“This is spectacular,” Lore Christopher said.

Hagen began accepting requests to purchase portraits to be put on the mural at the start of April, at \$200 each.

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Mixed week for baseball
PAGE A8



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