

Keizertimes

SECTION A

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Police chief emphasizes causes of recent crimes

“Then I saw the bullet holes in the house. It’s scary. I’m from Los Angeles. I moved here to get away from this (stuff). This is scary.”

— Margarito Galvez Jr.

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

A drive-by shooting last weekend means there has been a major crime in Keizer each of the past four months.

No one was injured early Sunday morning, May 15 when several shots were fired at a house and a car on the 4900 block of 13th Avenue North.

In February Jerrid Goodpaster was fatally shot at Keizer Station, while in March there was an armed robbery at One Stop Smoke Shop and a shooting in the Bi-Mart parking lot. In April there was a fatal stabbing at a residence on Brooks Avenue.

Not surprisingly, the string of crimes has left some Keizerites on edge and wondering what’s going on.

John Teague, Keizer police chief, sought to calm fears on Monday.

“We’re thankful that the

incidents previous to this one weren’t long investigations: we very quickly figured out who-done-it and affirmed that the public wasn’t in danger of random victimization,” Teague told the *Keizertimes*. “The common denominator to all of the earlier incidents is a high-risk lifestyle involving intoxicants.



Chief Teague

The shootings, for example, allegedly involved drug debts, not something for which a guy turns to the police or the courts for resolution.”

Teague said in some respects last weekend’s shooting was “qualitatively different” from the other incidents.

“In another way – if there was a high-risk lifestyle – it may be quite like them; we’re



The back window of this Honda, which was parked in front of a home on the 4900 block of 13th Avenue early Sunday morning, May 15, was shattered by a bullet.

continuing to investigate,” Teague said. “In the meantime, I expect most people aren’t fearful that they or their homes are at similar risk. Still, even apart from running with a risk-prone crowd, it’s a legitimate concern that a good guy may suffer merely for being around one of these things when it unravels. Even the most diligently aware person, for example, wouldn’t have avoided

the shopping center or coffee shop where and when the shootings occurred.”

So why are the incidents happening here, and why now?

“There really is no pattern in the randomness,” Teague said. “Similar to if a guy threw handfuls of marbles across a

floor, he would expect to see most of the marbles spread out, but some will group together, even where there’s no obvious reason for it, like a dip in the floor. I suspect that’s where the public is at the

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Coffee place, sub shop coming to Schoolhouse Square

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer’s busy focal point intersection at River and Chemawa Roads could soon be known as Coffee Corner.

Or would that be Koffee Korner?

Coffee aplenty is already readily available: Starbucks is currently located in the Schoolhouse Square Shopping

Center, Dutch Bros. coffee stand is a little south of the intersection and there is a Starbucks inside the Safeway on the southeast corner of the intersection.

As mentioned previously in

the *Keizertimes*, the standalone Starbucks is being replaced soon by a new building two addresses shy of Dutch Bros, while a new building with two tenants is planned for the corner of the Schoolhouse Square property.

One of those tenants will be a coffee drive-through, meaning four places to get coffee – three of which will have a drive-through option – within a few hundred yards of each other.

Darren Bloch, principal of Bloch Properties which closed on Schoolhouse Square late last year, confirmed

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Russell, Martindale shine at DYWK scholarship program



Elizabeth Russell and Sydney Martindale were named co-Distinguished Young Women of Keizer during the annual scholarship program Saturday, May 14. See page A6 for the story.

Koho to step down from city council

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

Dennis Koho was already going to leave the Keizer City Council once his term ended in January.

He’s just moving up the timeline a bit.

Koho, the former Keizer mayor and current city council president, told the *Keizertimes* on May 13 he’s resigning from the council.



Dennis Koho

This follows a March heart attack that left Koho in the hospital for weeks. He’s been slowly recovering, only to face one setback after another.

“I’m recovering, or at least I think so,” Koho said. “Everytime I think I’m doing better, I go to work for a while, then I find myself back in the hospital a couple of days later. Due to that

reason, I am resigning from the city council on June 1.”

After consulting with current mayor Cathy Clark, Koho changed the date on Monday to July 1, since that will get him through the budget season.

Koho said he reached the decision in part after conversations with wife Lori.

“It was an extremely difficult decision,” he said. “If it wasn’t for my wife, I wouldn’t do it. She explained a few things to me as only she can do. If the shoe was on the other foot, I’d probably ask her to do the same thing. For me, volunteer activities are important, but they’re not the most important things.

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Around we go



Courtesy of American Public Works Association Construction of a roundabout at Chemawa Road and Verda Lane, similar to the one seen here, will start in mid-June.

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

It really is happening.

After several delays, the intersection planned for years at Chemawa Road NE and Verda Lane NE is finally being constructed this summer.

Bill Lawyer, Public Works director for Keizer, confirmed the timing last week.

“The schedule for the project is to close the intersection beginning June 15 for construction and the intersection must be reopened no later than Sept 2,” Lawyer said. “The contractor will be doing some preliminary

work prior to June 15 that includes installing the detour signs, placing erosion control measures and mobilizing equipment to the job, but actual construction activities are not scheduled before June 15.”

Once the road is closed, it’s closed to all.

“The closure will affect all motor vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle traffic,” Lawyer said.

The roundabout – much maligned in the community for years – is replacing the current four-way stop which often produces long Please see AROUND, Page A8

Iris Festival time is here
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Library Tea Party
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MHS singers take title
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McNary sends some to state track
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