

Keizertimes

SECTION A

FEBRUARY 10, 2017

\$1.00

Code change could lead to Safeway gas station



By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer City Council cleared the first hurdle that may make way for a gas station in front of the Keizer Safeway location on River Road North.

In a 5-1 vote, the council approved a text amendment which removes an overlay zone prohibiting gas stations, in an area about a block-and-a-half in every direction, around the River Road North and Chemawa Road intersection. Councilor Kim Freeman was absent.

While any approval for a gas station remains far off, the removal of the overlay zone will allow the city to proceed with talks about adding a Safeway gas station.

The zone predates Keizer's building codes and was approved in 1996 by city councilors who were concerned about "safety and aesthetics" in the main corridor of Keizer's downtown.

An unpaved portion of the Safeway parking lot is one potential location for a proposed gas station.

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

At the time, there was already a gas station on the southwest corner of the intersection (where the focal point is now), and the then-councilors hoped to prevent another from cropping up before discussions could be had about what city leaders wanted the intersection to look like, said Nate Brown, Keizer's community development director.

"There is a lot of specific criteria that has been developed and we're in a different place. It would be a healthy discussion to have about what we want it to be now," Brown said.

The request to remove the overlay zone included a proposal by Safeway. The proposal offers

two sites for potential placements of the eight-pump gas station, either along the north side of the parking lot close to Chemawa Road Northeast or in the southwest corner behind Oregon State Credit Union.

The proposal also includes a traffic study, but the numbers were from an older traffic report, a newer one was conducted in 2016.

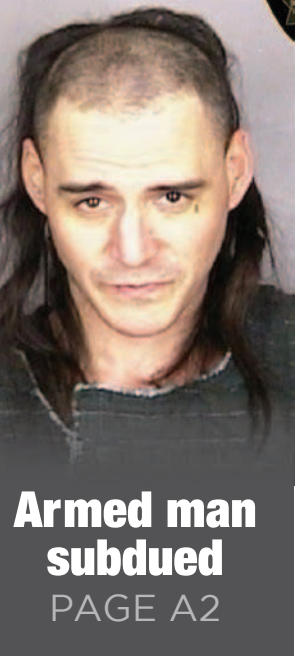
A report from Brown states, "The

"The Renaissance vision hasn't progressed. I don't see interest in that and I would hate to limit a business that is looking to expand."

— Amy Ryan,
Keizer City Councilor

Please see SAFEWAY, Page A7

McNary dominates W. Albany
PAGE A12



Armed man subdued
PAGE A2

'The solutions we bring to the table are nuclear.'
PAGE A3



Celt thespians, artists shine
PAGE A5



Duo proposes municipal internet service

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A pair of Keizer residents met with some resistance to the idea of creating internet service as a public utility at the Keizer City Council meeting Monday, Feb. 6.

Keizer residents Dylan Juran and Daniel Miedema spoke to the council about what other cities have done and what they see as the reasons for pursuing the idea. "There are some changes that have been happening where the big carriers are imposing data caps. Another thing we are concerned about is the end of net neutrality," Juran said.

With data caps, users are charged additional fees for going over an allowed amount. Net neutrality refers to preventing internet service providers from charging more for allowing certain content to flow across their systems, charges which would likely end up costing users who want to access the content. Users might also incur addi-

tional charges for accessing the internet from different types of devices. Net neutrality is currently mandated as part of a 2015 U.S. Court of Appeals decision, but there is increased concern that it might be overturned under pressure from the new presidential administration.

"One of the largest solutions is municipal internet, which is communities coming together to build a fiber or wireless internet networks," Juran said.

While the cost would be substantial, Juran said it was an investment in Keizer.

"It might be a way to get away from a service provider you may want to get away from. And businesses might consider Keizer as a place they want to build because it offers services like this," Juran said.

Juran noted that Independence and Monmouth combined forces to install their own network and Mt. Vernon, Wash., a city similar in size and population to Keizer, has also

Please see INTERNET, Page A7



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

The employees of Uptown Music recently earned national recognition for their pursuit of excellence in customer service.

Uptown Music wins national award

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

There are certain things Paul Elliott, the owner of Keizer's Uptown Music, can teach a new employee, like how to answer the phone and take good care of a customer.

But, whenever he hires a new employee for the store at 3827 River Road N., Elliott is looking for the thing he

can't teach: a servant's heart. "Having that servant's heart will make them take the extra step — because they want to do it, not because we told them to," said Elliott.

The approach is working according to colleagues in the music retail industry. In January, the store was awarded the Music and Sound Retailer Award for best customer service for a single-store dealer.

The store was selected out of thousands nationwide, Elliott said.

"Sometimes customers call our vendors and manufacturers directly and those businesses ask who sold them the equipment, apparently we got a lot of good feedback and it was the manufacturers that nominated us," Elliott said.

Please see UPTOWN, Page A9

KPD cracks down on home squatters

SISTERS OWE \$72,000 IN FINES

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

This week, the front door to home at 1689 14th Street N.E. is boarded up. Orange fliers are posted all over the house to notify would-be occupants that it has become unsafe. "No trespassing" are in windows.

A little over a week ago, that wasn't the case.

On Wednesday, Feb. 1,

Please see SQUAT, Page A9



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Police roused squatters from this 14th Street home last week.



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