

Keizertimes

SECTION A

FEBRUARY 24, 2017

\$1.00

12 cents a day = five new cops

Here's how it would change services

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

In an ideal world, the Keizer Police Department (KPD) would like to add five officers to the roster.

However, given a drum-tight general fund, which pays the salaries of officers, one of the few ways to add officers would likely be a fee added to utility bills the city issues.

Discussions of the cost began last summer, but are now more fully-formed.

The total cost of adding five officers would be somewhere in the range \$500,000 to \$600,000 per year. That includes wages, health insurance, retirement payments and payroll taxes for each officer. The reason for the wide range is that the specific salary for each officer would depend on whether a

new officer is hired or if they transfer from another agency.

If the city could spread that cost over each residential dwelling and business in the city, it would add about \$44 per year to the annual bill, or about 12 cents per day.

KPD is hiring another officer that will bring it to 37 officers, but its average of one officer-per-1,000-residents is well below national and state averages.

From the start, KPD Chief John Teague has urged residents and the Keizer City Council not to equate adding more officers with an

immediate drop in crime. Instead, he suggests, think about it in terms of better customer service.

The new officers would be spread over several units

“We have a number of times when good leads on property cases come in, but we simply don't have the time in the day to dedicate to them”

— Det. Chris Nelson

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Number of police officers per 1,000 residents

National Average: 2.35
Oregon Average: 1.65
Keizer Average: 1.00

COURTESY KEIZER POLICE DEPARTMENT

What the officers will do?

Keizer police officers serve in any of a variety of capacities, often developing areas of specialization along the way. KPD Chief John Teague said that the immediate effect of adding officers isn't a sharp reduction in crime, but a higher level of customer service. On the most basic level, it would allow the department to respond quicker to complaints and, ideally, with officers specially trained in the options for addressing specific problems.

Night shift officers (2 proposed)

While Keizer Police Department has adequate coverage during regular business hours, graveyard shifts are another story. Two additional night shift patrol officers — essentially one additional officer for each night of the week — would make it easier for police to set a perimeter around a scene to contain suspects on the run. It would also ease the burden during busy weekend nights.

Traffic safety officer (1 proposed)

Despite population increases of more than 11,000 people since 1994, Keizer still has just one traffic safety officer responding to traffic crashes, parking complaints, speeding, etc. While some police departments put an emphasis on ticketing, KPD officers put an emphasis on education and warnings. An additional officer would allow for more of that.

Burglary & property crimes detective (1 proposed)

KPD has had the same number of detectives for 22 years, and the demand for detective services has outstripped the department's resources. At any given time, there are more than 30 property crimes cases waiting to be worked and they take the back burner to more pressing cases like physical and sexual abuse. A new detective would be dedicated to burglary and property crime investigations.

Community Response Unit (CRU) officer (1 proposed)

The CRU specializes in long-term investigation and what is known as problem-oriented policing, in which underlying problems are addressed as much as the bad actors. CRU officers focus on persistent problems such as drug houses, larger-scale criminal activity, persistent offenders and livability issues, like the recent expulsion of squatters from a home near Gubser Elementary School. The addition of another officer would allow for more immediate attention given to complaints.

Cost of proposed officers

It would cost each dwelling and commercial location in Keizer about...

12 cents per day = \$3.67 per month = \$44 per year

KEIZERTIMES Reporting by ERIC A. HOWALD. Infographic by Andrew Jackson

Viewing the eclipse through our ancestors' eyes



Wikipedia

In some Hindu cultures, the head of trickster Kala Rau is the one responsible for eclipses of all types.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

On Aug. 21, a total solar eclipse will pass over the breadth of the United States for the first time since 1918. While the ease with which we access information now allows us remove the mystique from celestial events. That wasn't

always the case.

In preparation for the eclipse, the Keizertimes is taking a periodic look at the significance of eclipses and the evolving ways humans view them. We're starting by looking way back.

Our ancestors blamed

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Weed, meth, cocaine, heroin and oxy

Cuffed Keizer man had all of it

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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A weeks-long investigation into the activities of a Keizer man yielded a major drug bust for the Salem Police Department's Street Crimes Unit (SCU) on Thursday, Feb. 16.

Members of the SCU, assisted by officers from the Keizer Police Department, acted on three search warrants in Salem and Keizer resulting in the seizure of 40 pounds of marijuana,

17 pounds of methamphetamine, five pounds of cocaine, a quarter-pound of heroin, 10,000 oxycodone pills, \$40,000 in cash, five firearms and two sets of body armor.

Police arrested 36-year-old Casey Miser, of Keizer, who is charged with delivery of methamphetamine, delivery of cocaine and delivery of heroin. Miser is being held at the Marion County Correctional Facility with bail set at \$1.5 million.



C. Miser

unusual from the standpoint that you don't usually see a guy working an 8 to 5 job and slinging dope in the evenings.”

Miser worked at All-American Truck & SUV Accessory Centers on

Portland Road Northeast, the site where one of the search warrants was served. Birr said Casey Miser is the son of an owner of the parent company. Birr said drugs were found at both the business and Miser's home in the 1300 block of Rafael Avenue North. “It was one of the nicest homes we've ever executed a search warrant on,” Birr said.

Jeff Kuhns, KPD deputy chief, said the home was not a source of complaints to the department.

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Vincent wins district

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Robber sought

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Tea for literacy

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In stitches

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“We felt safe and well-cared for.”

— Jillian Slezak
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