

Keizertimes

SECTION A

APRIL 21, 2017

\$1.00

Officer shortage delays home intrusion arrest

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

An intruder caused a Keizer family to flee their home and a shortage of officers on the Keizer Police Department's (KPD) night shift delayed an arrest by almost an hour.

About 4:30 a.m., on Saturday, April 15, Officer Eric Jefferson was dispatched to a report of a burglary-in-progress in the 1100 block of Lockhaven Drive Northeast. A 9-1-1 caller reported an unknown male was banging on the door of his home and ringing the doorbell.

While en route to the call, Jefferson was informed that the caller had armed himself with a gun and the suspect



Jamie Reyes

was breaking a window to gain entry.

After the man gained entry, the man, his wife and two dogs fled the home into the backyard. The caller reported

“We simply do not have enough night shift officers to properly contain crime scenes and establish a good perimeter”

— Jeff Kuhns,
Deputy Chief, Keizer Police

he could see the suspect walking down a hallway.

Jefferson and K-9 Buster arrived moments later and identified the point of entry, but because of the size of the

home and the lot, additional support was needed to contain the suspect if he decided to flee.

“We simply do not have enough night shift officers to properly contain crime scenes and establish a good perimeter around such crime scenes,” said Deputy Chief Jeff Kuhns. “Not only were more officers needed to contain the area and set a perimeter, we needed to evacuate the victims and their two dogs from the immediate area for their own personal safety.”

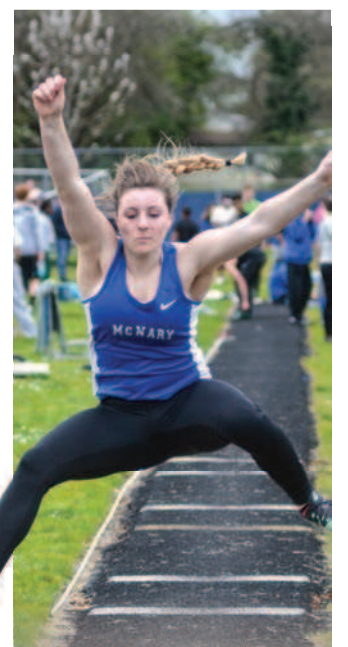
Jefferson and Officer Andrew McCowan waited nearly 40 minutes for back-up, in the form of four Salem Police Department officers,

to arrive. At 5:20 a.m. officers entered the home and found the suspect asleep on a couch. He was taken into custody and found to be intoxicated.

Jamie Reyes, 23, was arrested and told police he believed he had broken into his own house, a house he was buying from his cousin. He is charged with criminal mischief and criminal trespass.

During the course of questioning, Reyes also told Jefferson that his brother, Darius Adams, had dropped him off at the home after a night of partying at Tequila on River Road North. Jefferson had arrested Adams on suspicion of driving under the

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Lady Celts take first and second in long jump

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Principal to committee: **We need sidewalks**



Cummings Elementary School students walk along the side of the road after the end of the school day. KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The principal at Cummings elementary school had a message for the Keizer Traffic Safety Bikeways and Pedestrian Committee Thursday, April 13: prioritize pedestrian access around her school.

“I have severe concerns about pedestrian traffic around the school,” said Martina Mangan, Cummings principal. “With no sidewalks and heavy traffic during drop-off and pick up times we have students walking around traffic jams.”

Mangan brought an ally

“When I am there watching the kids run back and forth along the edge of the street, it is enough to give you heart failure”

— Carol Doerfler,
Crossing guard at Cummings Elementary School

with her to the meeting, Carol Doerfler, a member of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association Board and crossing guard at the school. Doerfler didn't mince words.

“When I am there watching the kids run back and forth along the edge of the

street, it is enough to give you heart failure,” Doerfler said.

Currently, the only available sidewalk around Cummings, on Delight Street N., end at the building itself. There are no sidewalks on the opposite side of Delight and none along Cummings Lane

North.

The project has been on the city's wish list for at least a decade, but finding funding for it has been more of a challenge.

The city applied for federal funds to install sidewalks and other pedestrian improvements around 2008, but the project was scored so low by grant administrators that the city hasn't even attempted it again.

“Arterials and collectors get most of the federal funding and (Delight) is a local road,” said Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works director.

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Planning commission says ‘no’ to c-store

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Conversations about a possible fueling center at Safeway on River Road will continue if the Keizer City Council accepts the recommendation of the Keizer Planning Commission.

However, the recommendation does not permit a convenience store associated with a fueling center.

At issue is a text amendment to the city's development code. In the 1990s, the then-city council approved a special zone for an area around the intersection of Chemawa Road and River Road North. The zone currently prohibits the placement of gas stations in the area as well as several other types of development. Safeway — which did not send any representatives to the Wednesday, April 12, meeting — needs the code altered before discussions can continue. Even though the planning commission is recommending a narrower set of parameters on the development that Safeway requested, the council could still alter the final amendment.

Planning commissioners predominantly focused on two topics during the meeting: how to address impacts to the Keizer Fire District with increased traffic at the Safeway shopping center and whether to allow a convenience store in addition to the fueling center.

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Treasury wants employees to have better plan

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Egg hunt photos

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Shelter gets parks grant amid dissent

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Rapids Park is on the path to getting its first picnic shelter thanks to the narrow approval of a matching grant request by the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Tuesday, April 11.

The grant for \$8,300 — all of the remaining funds in the matching grant budget for the fiscal year — will help cover the

cost of a 16-foot by 24-foot covered picnic shelter near the sand volleyball courts on the northwest side of the park. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$26,300.

Hans Schneider, the driving force behind the upgrade to the sand volleyball courts a few years ago, was the grant applicant. He and his wife are committing \$10,000 to the project.

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Keizer Rapids Park will get its first picnic shelter thanks to a matching grant approved last week. The shelter pictured is near Grant Community School in Salem. KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald



Slater retires from KFD after 22 years

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