

## Homegrown Theatre finds home

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Homegrown Theatre will have its own home for its 2018 season.

The theatre, which did three of its 2017 shows in Salem at Chemeketa Community College and the Kroc Center, is moving into the events space at the Keizer Heritage Center.

“It’s nice to have a real address,” said Linda Baker, the company’s founder. “It’s easier for them to find us. It’s easier for them to connect with us. When we are in the middle of Keizer, our Keizer audiences are much larger than when we’re out wondering around in the outermost parts.”

KHT has scheduled an open house for Saturday, Feb. 17 from 12-3 p.m. with snacks, coffee, tea and juice to welcome the community to the new home, which seats an audience of 75.

The company performed *Love Letters* in the space last year.

“It’s going to be wonderful,” Baker said. “There’s a lot of opportunity. There’s a wonderful synergy that we get to create, too, with our art association right next door and all kinds of really neat things can happen. We’ll be able to do more sophisticated sets and lighting because we’ll



“It’s nice to have a real address.”

— Linda Baker,  
Founder, Keizer  
Homegrown Theatre

be able to put that in place and leave it in place.”

KHT will have auditions for its entire 2018 season at its new space, 980 Chemawa Rd. NE, on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 27 from 12-3 p.m.

The company is opening the season with *The Brother’s Grim Spectaculathon*, a one-act readers theatre in which two

narrators attempt to recreate all 209 of the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm in a wild, fast-paced extravaganza. To make it more difficult, they combine them into one gigantic fable using Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin, Hansel and Gretel, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella and other more obscure stories like *Lean Lisa* and *The Devil’s*

Keizer Homegrown Theater will make its permanent home upstairs in the newly-renamed Keizer Cultural Center on Chemawa Road Northeast.

*Grandmother.*

“It’s insanely funny. It really is,” Baker said. “If people really want to do something truly absurd and ridiculous. That’s what the *Spectaculathon* is. It is very tongue-in-cheek, very irreverent.”

*The Brother’s Grim*

*Spectaculathon* will open at the Cherry Blossom Theatre Festival on March 10 at the World Beat Gallery in downtown Salem and then move to the new Keizer space the following two weekends, March 16-18 and 23-25.

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## Cinema greenlit at Keizer Station

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

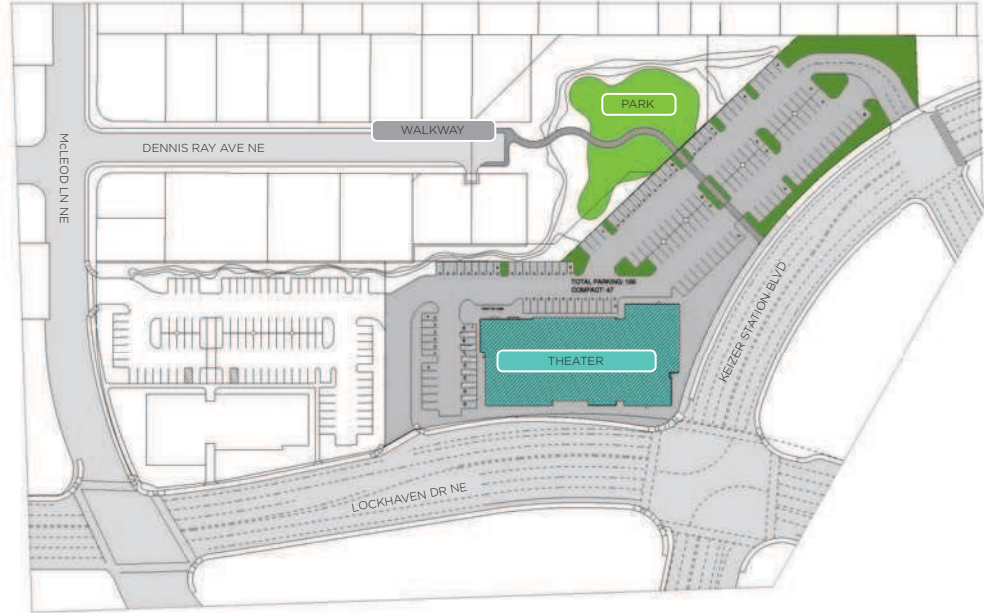
Keizer is getting a movie theater.

At its meeting Tuesday, Jan. 16, the Keizer City Council authorized City Manager Chris Eppley to sign a lease for a site in Keizer Station with the owner of Keizer Cinema 9 LLC, Charles Nakvasil.

The site is located across from the Transit Center on Keizer Station Boulevard Northeast and the lease will net the city nearly \$150,000 annually over at least the next 50 years. The cinema will have the option to extend the lease for up to 99 years.

Construction is expected to begin soon with an opening in the fall or winter. Keizer Cinema 9 will be a first-run theater with nine screens offering beer, liquor, wine and food.

In October 2016, Nakvasil approached the city about leasing the land through a broker, Pate Retail Properties. In July 2017, Keizer made adjustments to the



master plan at Keizer Station allowing for the new building. In November 2017, the proposed design was unveiled at a meeting of the Keizer Planning Commission and waivers were approved for fewer windows than would otherwise have been required.

The city will begin col-

lecting rent on the property – \$12,260 per month, or \$142,120 annually – 90 days after the theater opens or beginning March 1, 2019.

Rent will increase two percent per year with a “look back” every 10 years to adjust up or down based on the Consumer Price Index.

Construction of the theater will require a new, signaled intersection on Keizer Station Boulevard, that project was already in the works as part of a deal with the Salem-Keizer Transit District but will likely be fast-tracked now that the theater is imminent.

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## First Citizen to be named Saturday

The Keizer Chamber of Commerce is getting geared up for a party Saturday, Jan. 20.

Tickets are now on sale for the upcoming First Citizen & Awards Banquet sponsored by the Keizer Chamber of Commerce. Ticket cost is \$55 for individuals. The night begins at 6 p.m.

To purchase tickets, go to [www.keizerchamber.com](http://www.keizerchamber.com).

In addition to naming the city’s new First Citizen, awards are presented for Merchant of the Year, Service to Education and a President’s Award goes to a person selected by the outgoing president of the Chamber board of directors.

The Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road N.E., will host the event.

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## Merkley, Schrader find narrow paths for progress after 2017

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Sen. Jeff Merkley and Rep. Kurt Schrader sat down with members of the media for a brief question-and-answer session before taking the floor for a town hall at Claggett Creek Middle School on Saturday, Jan. 13.

Despite short time, the congressmen fielded a number of questions on a number of topics facing Oregon and the nation.

The pair started by talking about the next steps in an effort to stop the repeal of net neutrality, rules that prevent internet service providers from throttling internet speeds and charging premiums for faster service. In December, the Federal Communications Commission voted along party lines to repeal net neutrality

despite outpourings of opposition.

Members of the U.S. Senate are planning to put the issue to a Congressional Review Act (CRA) vote that might stop the repeal. The Congressional Review Act allows Congress an expedited way to overrule a regulation. It’s also the same tactic the Trump Administration and Republican-controlled Congress have used to kill many regulations put in



ABOVE: Sen. Jeff Merkley speaks with constituents as a town hall meeting disperses at Claggett Creek Middle School. RIGHT: Rep. Kurt Schrader talks with another group of constituents.



place under President Barack Obama.

“We already have enough co-sponsors to force a vote on the floor as soon as it goes through all the hoops. I think

it has to be put on the Federal Registry. I am not sure of the timing of that, but my impression is that is a couple of months before it happens,” Merkley said. “Phone calls my

office received were 100-to-1 (against the repeal) and nothing has 100-to-1 support. It’s the one issue it seems like everybody agrees on.”

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Changes coming to football?

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2,000 trees removed

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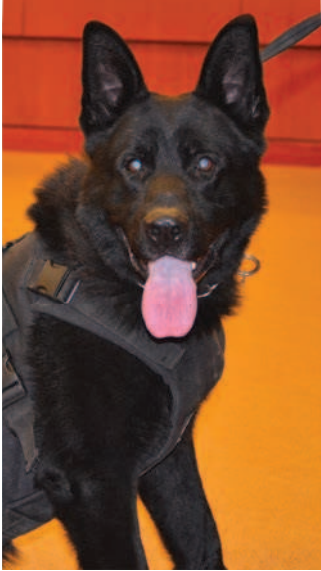
Mastering the cube

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New K9 officer

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