

Keizertimes

SECTION A

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The Thrift Store aims for high-end bargains

Goodwill vacated its Keizer location in April, but a new thrift shop is gearing up to take its place.

The Thrift Store, 3840 River Road N., is pushing for a September opening, said manager Mike Kenney.

"It will be a thrift store first and foremost, but there will be different selection and a more varied mix of new items to complement the used items customers expect," Kenney said.

The differences start with the store's layout. Kenney relegated shelving units to the outside walls and added about 200 feet of additional space for clothing items. He's also doubled the size of the book section.

"We're trying to create a different shopping experience. We don't want things like shelves jam-packed with picture frames because you can't shop them," he said.

Dispelling clutter and preconceived notions is only part of the plan. Customers might also find high-end items unexpected for a thrift store setting.

"We will have shoes that someone might find at Payless or Walmart up to Jimmy Choos,

it will be the same with handbags up to Louis Vuitton and Coach," Kenney said. "We want to put quality products in front of people at a real value — about half of retail."

Kenney said the business is a new venture for the owners who have chains in California and part of another in Texas. The Thrift Store isn't technically part of those operations, but it is the flagship location in Oregon.

Those looking to donate items, like they once did at Goodwill, can also donate to The Thrift Store knowing they are helping a worthwhile cause.

All proceeds from clothing donations will

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Mike Kenney is manager of The Thrift Shop, which is planning a September opening in the old Goodwill location.



Blue Day is here
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McNary alum releases 1st book

By CASEY CHAFFIN
Keizertimes Intern

T.J. Reid is not going to be the next J.K. Rowling. He knows that. But what's the harm in trying anyway?

Reid self-published his first novel—*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Apocalypse*—last year. It was a project he's been mulling since his days at McNary, when the

book that turned out to be a tongue-in-cheek "lampooning" of the post-apocalyptic genre was still taking itself seriously. The book describes the adventures of Leith Evergreen on her quest to save her mother and stave off the apocalypse.

"It wasn't always a comedy in my mind. I actually started a draft a long time ago,

when I was a teenager — I'd be horrified to read it now," Reid said. "I was writing it and even then I thought this is really bad, I need a different way to approach this. It's a story I want to tell ... and then it kind of just clicked: I like writing funny things, why not make it a comedy?"

A Funny Thing Happened

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Submitted

LEFT: T.J. Reid lands on an idea in his author photo.

ABOVE: The cover to Reid's first self-published novel, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Apocalypse*.

Keizer United gets half of promised support, for now

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Earlier this year, the Keizer Budget Advisory Committee appropriated \$2,000 to assist Keizer United, a networking and collaboration organization focused on bringing together other goodwill efforts in the city. When asked to disburse the money at a Keizer City Council meeting Monday, Aug. 6, councilors got cold feet.

In the end, Keizer United got half of its request with more to come if councilors like how the money is used.

Councilors approved disbursing \$1,000 in a 5-0 vote with two councilors absent.

Meredith Mooney, president of Keizer United, remained in good spirits despite pushback from the council

on the budget she offered the council.

Aside from concerns about the vagueness regarding how the money would be used, Councilor Kim Freeman took issue with the money potentially being used to pay for lunches Keizer United provides at its monthly meetings.

"There's a lot of times we're here, as councilors, and we don't even get lunch."

— Kim Freeman,
Keizer City Councilor

"Isn't it at lunchtime, so they could bring their own lunch? For me, as a city to give you taxpayer dollars for

lunch is not okay with me. One, because we don't do it for any other committee and there's a lot of times we're here, as councilors, and we don't even get lunch," Freeman said. It should be noted that Keizer United is not a city committee, but an independent non-profit.

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Chamber bolsters Blast Camp
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New principal at Cummings
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Task force may plan KLL Park's future

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

One Keizer youth sports league walked away from its contract to manage Keizer Little League Park with several pieces of equipment that fell into a gray area of ownership. The successor has proven less-than-forthcoming in money matters.

The combination of the two may mean a task force is brought in to devise a plan for the future oversight and maintenance of the park itself.

Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark announced the idea at the Keizer City Council meeting Aug. 6, and the Keizer City Council is

expected to take up the matter in its next meeting Monday, Aug. 20. The council meeting begins at 7 p.m. The park is owned by the city but, to date, youth sports organizations operate and manage the facility under a contract with the city.

"It is important for us to value and to do some long-range planning on how that complex will be managed going forward," said Clark at the last city council meeting. "I have discussed with a few people in the community a long-range planning task force that honors the work and heritage that goes into the park."

Clark said she envisions an

eight-person task force that includes herself, City Councilor Marlene Parsons, city council candidate Dan Kohler, James Hutches representing the Keizer Chamber of Commerce and two representatives each from Keizer Little League (KLL) and McNary Youth Baseball, the organization formerly known as Keizer Youth Sports Association (KYSA).

Clark said it would be the role of the task force to gather information on the history of the park and what's been done to date, gain an understanding of the business of running the



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McNary hosts sports camps
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