

## 'Jug handle' changes greenlit

### 7-Eleven on the way

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

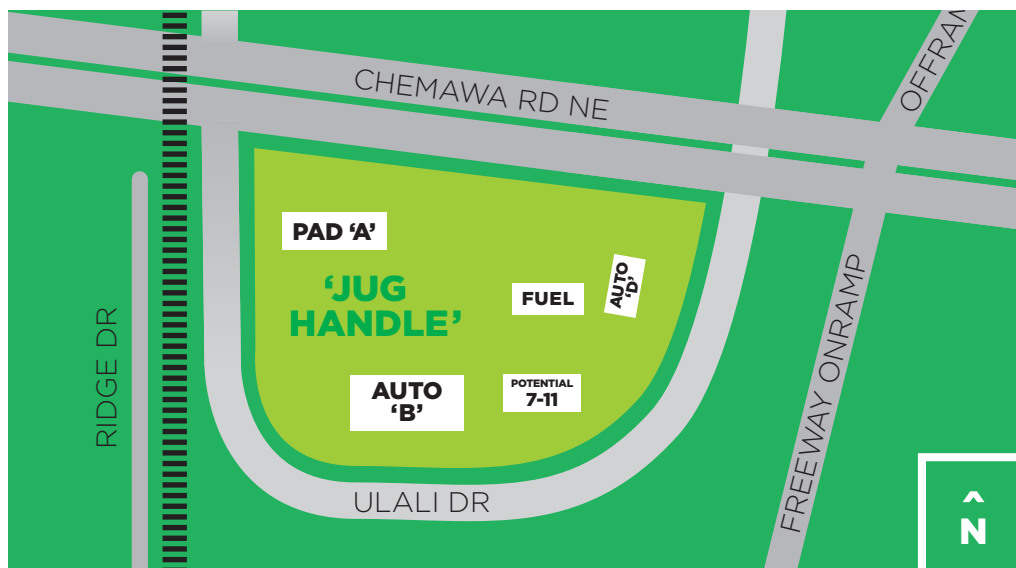
The Keizer City Council approved amendments to the Keizer Station Master Plan that will pave the way for construction to begin in an area south of Chemawa Road Northeast.

The space known as "the jug handle" between Ulali Drive Northeast and Chemawa is now approved for four buildings instead of three, one of them will likely become Keizer's third 7-Eleven. There is no mention of a potential Chick-fil-A in the plans for

the property owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.

Instead of one large retailer, a convenience market with a gas station and a fast food restaurant with a drive-through, the plans now accommodate: an 8,000-square-foot automotive accessory retail building, a 4,800-square-foot fast food restaurant, a 3,000-square-foot convenience market, gas station with 12 fueling pumps

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KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson



## Keizer United grants provide pandemic relief to gardens

By **LAUREN MURPHY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Keizer United recently provided four grants for local community gardens to help with their operating costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We recognized that community gardens are more important than ever as our community is faced with hardships and food insufficiencies. We also wanted to recognize the hard work of garden coordinators," said Keizer United President Meredith Mooney.

Keizer United reached out to five community gardens and offered a Community Garden Grant with a \$150 value. Only four of the gardens responded.

"We had originally reached out to four Keizer gardens listed through Marion Polk Food Share. Out of those we have had three coordinators utilize the program and one coordinator that never responded," Mooney said. The fifth garden was brought to the board's attention at the Keizer United monthly

meeting.

The John Knox Community Garden, Jerry & Peggy Moore Community Garden, Dayspring Community Garden and Keizer Church of Christ Community Garden all received a \$150 credit at Copper Creek Merchantile. The locally-owned shop kept an invoice for all the things purchased by the garden coordinators, then sent the bill to Keizer United.

Mary Jo Emmet facilitates the community garden at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Keizer, a core

garden in the Marion Polk Food Share garden network—meaning they donate at least 20 percent of their garden proceeds to people experiencing food insecurity.

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By **ERIC A. HOWALD**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

New swings, new play structures for infants and small children alike, balance beams and a two-person merry-go-round will all be part of a replacement of the playground at Claggett Creek Park.

The Keizer City Council approved a \$282,261 contract with Ross Recreation Equipment for the project at its meeting Monday, Aug. 3.

The project is expected to be completed by November 1, if weather cooperates. All of the playground equipment, aside from some swings, will rest atop a poured-in-place surface designed to reduce injury from falls. The surface will be similar to those found in Keizer Rapids Parks and Meadows Park but include a "river" running through the center.

Demolition of the current play structure will occur first followed by the installation of the poured surface. The play area is expected to be off-limits to visitors for four to six weeks.

In addition to the play

## Claggett Creek playground slated for \$280K makeover



structures, the playground will have "game panels" instructing visitors to listen for specific sounds, identify fish in the Willamette River and seek out "medallions" with specific symbols hidden throughout the playground structures. A disability swing

will be added to the planned replacements for the existing ones.

The last time the city conducted an overhauls of park equipment, at Meadows Park and Carlson Skate Park, Keizer Public Works and the parks department held

planning sessions inviting community members to voice their desires. Because of the pandemic, city residents were not given the same opportunities this time around.

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## Parents: SKPS is falling short on fall plans

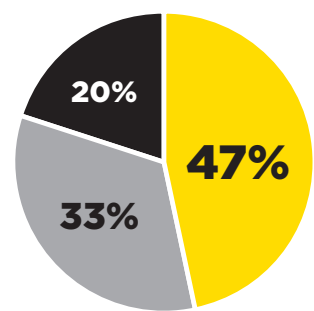
By **MATT RAWLINGS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The Keizertimes received 45 responses in their school survey regarding the distance-learning model Salem-Keizer Public Schools (SKPS) used in the spring and the district's plan for the upcoming school year.

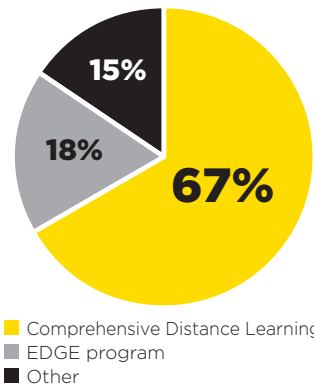
Twenty-nine of the parents that responded have at least one of their children in high school while 25 participants reported that they have a child in either preschool/kindergarten or elementary school. Twelve of the parents said that they have at least one of their children in middle school.

The results of the survey saw almost exclusively negative

**How will distance learning affect adults with job/careers in your household?**



**How will your students be attending school this year?**



responses regarding the question that asked parents about their thoughts on spring distance learning.

"It was a joke. My middle schooler got his work done in one day and had nothing else the rest of the week. He maybe had two Google meets with teachers," said one parent.

"I thought it was very hard

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