

Big Toy pesticide concerns muted

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

When the orchard site was discussed as a possible location for the Big Toy play structure last year, most of the concern was the timing of getting the land within city limits.

A less verbalized concern was the spraying of pesticides in the orchards where the filberts are harvested and the potential impact that would have on the health of those using the play structure.

The Big Toy is being constructed by an army of volunteers starting next Wednesday, June 10. The five-day build is expected to conclude with a soft opening of the play structure at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 14.

For the most part, concerns of the pesticides are muted.

Not entirely, however.

In March 2012, Tony Weathers with Willamette Mission Farm, Inc. entered into a five-year contract with the city of Keizer to lease the filbert orchards for \$10,000 a year. Weathers keeps all the profit he makes by harvesting the filberts.

As part of the harvesting, Weathers sprays pesticides on

the orchards three times a year.

Since the Big Toy is being built in part of the orchards used for farming, a concern has been expressed about the possibility of those pesticides spreading to the play structure.

The person apparently most concerned? Weathers. But despite repeated messages, Weathers only briefly talked to the Keizertimes last week about what his concerns are.

“My concern is my ass being sued,” Weathers said before heading into a meeting. “My concern is someone using the toy when the park is closed, get flu and found out I sprayed. I have too much to lose. I informed the city I would like to get out of the lease.”

City attorney Shannon Johnson avoided questions of whether Weathers would be able to get out of the lease, or if he’s already been released from the lease.

Others aren’t as concerned.

Bill Lawyer, Public Works director for Keizer, showed the Keizertimes a June 2010 environmental site assessment report from BB&A Environmental that focused on condi-



Some concerns have been expressed about pesticides sprayed on trees in the orchards around the Big Toy site at Keizer Rapids Park, but the project is still taking place next week.

tions of the 28 acre property before it was purchased by the city. Samples were collected on May 21, 2010 and analyzed for any recognized environmental conditions (REC).

“It did not identify any obvious contamination,” Lawyer said.

The analysis looked primarily at how much DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), DDE (dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene) and DDD (dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane) were in the soil.

Small amounts of each were found in three of the four sec-

tions, but all well below Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) standards. One area, the west portion, was labeled as non-detected. That’s the area where the Big Toy is being built.

Please see BIG TOY, Page A14

Grad moves ahead, no excuses



Payton Williams had a longer road to Friday’s McNary High School graduation than most: he was diagnosed with cancer last July but was declared cancer-free in May.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Many of the McNary High School graduates who will receive their diplomas Friday, June 5, will have overcome all sorts of challenges to make that walk across the stage.

Fewer would measure up to what Payton Williams has overcome in the past 12 months. In July 2014, Payton was diagnosed with differentiated soft-tissue sarcoma and two large tumors, one in his back and the other in his stomach. Not long after, he

began chemotherapy treatments and went under the knife twice to remove the tumors. He was declared cancer-free in early May.

“I didn’t really know what to expect. I knew it wasn’t going to be fun, but I didn’t expect to be so sore for so long. My back surgery was four months ago and I didn’t expect it to still be hurting,” Payton said.

The tumor in Payton’s back was so large that a significant chunk of muscle also needed to be removed. It was replaced

with muscle from his shoulder and is part of the reason behind his long healing process.

Throughout his battle, Williams was surrounded by loved ones, friends and the Keizer community as a whole. A gofundme.com campaign raised nearly \$9,000 and that didn’t include separate fundraisers held by McNary’s choir, volleyball, basketball and softball teams alongside T-shirt and bracelet sales launched by the school and relatives.

Please see PAYTON, Page A14

Probation only for attempted kidnapper called into question

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Even the presiding judge seemed displeased with a plea deal in the attempted kidnappings of two Keizer teens in April.

Judge Donald Abar told Cody Blackman, 31, of Keizer, that he did not understand the district attorney’s decision to let Blackman off with 60 months of probation and registration as a sex offender in Marion County.

“He sounds like a predator to me,” said Abar to the attorneys present, before addressing Blackman himself. “If you are around minors, sir, you will be picked up and taken to prison.”

Deputy District Attorney Doug Hanson, who helped negotiate the plea deal, said

that probation was the best possible outcome given Blackman’s lack of criminal history.

“Our guidelines are provided by the state legislature, but since there was a period of time between the first and second incidents we are now able to start from the point of him going to prison should Mr. Blackman reoffend,” Hanson said.

Blackman pled guilty to two felony charges of attempted kidnapping stemming from two separate incidents on April 16, within hours of each other. Blackman admitted to stalking two McNary High School students, one 16 and the other 15, along Verda Lane Northeast and on streets behind the Keizer Quality Suites on Wittenberg Lane NE, respectively. Blackman was arrested the following day and told investigators that he had rented a

Please see KIDNAP, Page A11

Black bear cub seen in Keizer

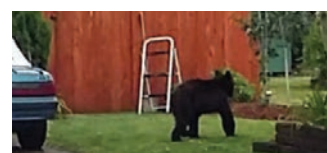
A young black bear spotted in Salem last weekend was seen in Keizer Monday morning.

At around 10 a.m. on June 1, officers with the Keizer Police Department responded to a call on the 3200 block of Mayfield Place North about a black bear being seen in the yard of a densely populated residential neighborhood at the south end of city limits.

Three KPD officers responded, but none could locate the bear.

According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), there are 25,000 to 30,000 black bears in Oregon. Usually black, the bears can also be brown, cinnamon or blond in color. They are known for being fast and agile, as well as good swimmers and climbers.

Previously, five West Salem residents called Salem Police Department about seeing a bear in the vicinity of Walker Middle School. One witness



Submitted This bear was spotted in Keizer on Monday, June 1.

took a cell phone video of the young bear eating pet food from a bucket on a porch. Based on the video, biologists believe the bear to be a yearling, weighing 30 to 60 pounds.

A live trap was set out on Monday to capture and remove the bear, but was moved after calls indicated the bear was roving north.

If a bear poses a threat, ODFW recommends calling 911, giving the bear a way to escape, steering clear of the cubs, staying calm and not making sudden movements, backing away slowly while facing the bear, talking to the animal in a firm voice, avoiding direct eye contact and fighting back if attacked.

Moles owner pushing to improve city sign codes

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

The props in front of city hall and the dryer in front of his store may have been eye-catching, but Nigel Guisinger insists it’s not about his business.

Guisinger, who bought Moles Appliance at 3800 River Road in 2013, said he’s fighting to make Keizer – River Road in particular – more business friendly.

But it was a battle between Guisinger and city officials that got things going last week.

Both sides agree Ben Crosby, the new code enforcement officer for Keizer, took a sandwich board sign May 27 from the sidewalk in front of Moles.



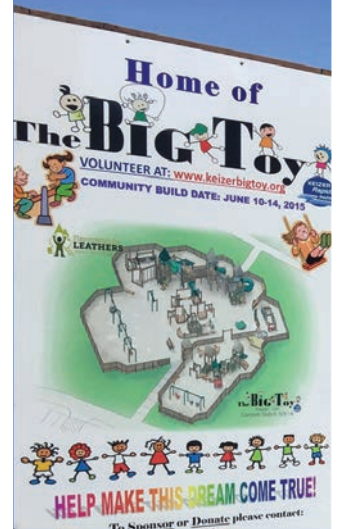
Keizertimes/Craig Murphy Moles Appliance owner Nigel Guisinger used creative tactics to draw attention to issues with city sign code issues.

Nate Brown, director of Community Development for Keizer, said Guisinger was

warned the day before.

Please see MOLES, Page A11

Sidebar:
Big Toy
build dates
are here
PAGE A2



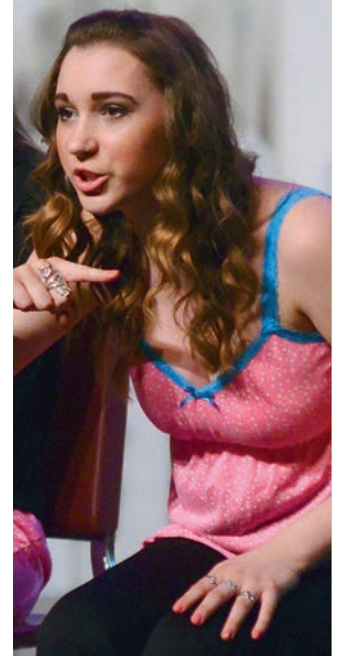
KEIZER
SINCE 1982

Council
approves
budget

PAGE A3

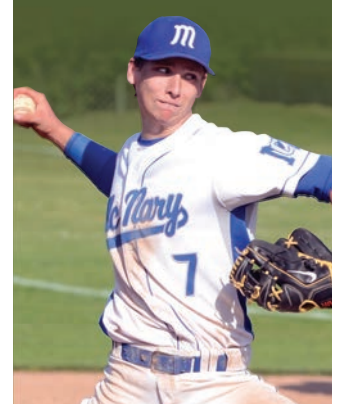
Golden
Onions
awards

PAGE A6



Baseball,
softball
lose at state

PAGE A12



0 88267 02324 6

We see what’s on the inside
So you get back in the game

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING of SALEM
YOU HAVE A CHOICE
1165 Union St. NE #100 – Salem
503-588-2674 • www.salemimaging.com/keizer.php