

MOLES,

continued from Page A1

"There was a sandwich board framed sign, right in the middle of the sidewalk," Brown said. "(Guisinger) was told by Ben he couldn't do that. Nigel said the mayor (Cathy Clark) told him he didn't have to move it. Ben went back, but Nigel was not available. Ben told an employee to move the sign or it would be confiscated. It was moved."

Temporarily, at least. "The next day it was right back in the same place, so Ben

took the sign," Brown said. "I also called and talked to an employee and said the same thing: you can't block the sidewalk with the sign. We had the same conversation three times before the sign was removed. I also said next time you will get a citation."

Brown said that's according to the city sign code ordinance, among other things.

"It's also according to state statute, just a lot of things," Brown said. "You can't block sidewalks."

Guisinger said he'd been asked to talk about signs at the Keizer Economic Development Commission — chaired by the

mayor — two weeks prior.

"I've met with the mayor and I met with Lore (Christopher) when she was mayor," Guisinger said. "Everyone realizes it was a bad policy with signs. The city has some bad rules on the book, including the sign code. We've had the conversation with all these other people. People need to see we're in business on River Road."

Guisinger said the widening of River Road in the 1980s encroached on parking lots for businesses up and down the main thoroughfare, severely limiting space for buildings like his, one of the oldest business buildings in Keizer.

KIDNAP,

continued from Page A1

nearby hotel room and "desired but did not admit to attempting to lure the boys to the room." Blackman also admitted to pedophilia tendencies.

Blackman's lack of prior criminal record was a factor for the lighter sentence, said the attorney for the state at a sentencing hearing Thursday, May 28.

Kandi Morales, mother of one of the victims, was more upset than Abar with the acceptance of a plea bargain.

"We couldn't believe it," said Morales, who attended the sentencing hearing last

week with Connie Lemus, the mother of the other victim. "(Blackman) intended to harm the two boys. We're trying to let people know he's out there."

Morales and Lemus resorted to posting signs in the areas where their sons were stalked in hopes of getting the word out. A Facebook post that included some of the same information had been shared several thousand times.

Morales said Blackman was waiting for her son as he made his way home from school April 16.

"He was walking down Verda and there was a car slowly following. Once he crossed the street, the car followed and pulled in front of him, blocking his path. It caused him

to walk past the driver's side window and (Blackman) was staring at him. He went up to a house as though that was where he was going and the guy drove off," Morales said.

After learning of what had transpired, Morales called the Keizer police and a detective was at their home within an hour.

"They had already learned about the other attempt because the boy had run right to the police station after the guy disappeared. His mom said he hid behind a tree while watching (Blackman) drive back and forth looking for him," Morales said.

As a result of the incident, Morales now drops her son off at school and relatives are picking him up. He has also missed several days as a result of the incident.

In a letter to the judge, Morales had encouraged Abar to consider Blackman's intent as much as his actions.

"(The) sentence is really the only amount of time that myself and the other victim's mother will have any peace of mind, because we will know that Mr. Blackman will not be able to harm our sons or any other child in our community," she wrote.

"I had the sign on the sidewalk," Guisinger said. "It's an old building. There's no way to not block traffic and still be within code. The only spot was on the sidewalk."

When Brown told him the decision was made above his pay grade, Guisinger retorted to get someone above his pay grade.

"That probably came across as jerky," Guisinger acknowledged.

On the evening of May 27, Guisinger took to Facebook to sarcastically thank city staff for removing his business sign.

"And they ask why businesses leave Keizer and how the city can spur economic growth," Guisinger wrote. "Hint, don't steal signs from businesses."

Guisinger called the sign being removed "baloney" and said he was supposed to get a letter from the city and get a certain amount of time to remove the sign or to fight with the city.

"Instead, they just take it. I said that's not right," said Guisinger, who figured posting about it on Facebook would do more than yelling at city hall.

VB courts could come in July

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Rapids Park will have a different look by the end of the summer.

Most obviously will be the addition of the Big Toy play structure.

Further south in the park, Jerry Nuttbrock and his crew are building a patio at the Keizer Rotary Amphitheater this month.

In between those two locations, Hans Schneider is looking to build new sand volleyball courts next month.

Nuttbrock received matching grant program funds at the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting last month, as detailed in the May 22 Keizertimes.

After Nuttbrock got his funding, Schneider talked to Parks Board members about his project, which followed up on a discussion he had with the same board in March.

Schneider will be talking with Parks Board members again this month to get funding

from the matching grant program, which will have \$15,000 for next fiscal year (starting in July) according to the budget approved by Keizer City Councilors on Monday.

"The (KRP) master plan is laid out for three sand volleyball courts," Schneider said last month. "We are hoping to start in mid-July. It will be a two or three week process. We will be putting in three courts. Based on the funding we have, three is reasonable."

In his project application, Schneider listed a total cost of \$48,810. In March, Schneider pledged \$20,000 towards the project. That would be part of the \$25,000 listed for private cash and materials donations.

The estimated value of labor is \$19,310, with the additional \$4,500 being requested from the matching grant program.

Bill Lawyer, Public Works director for Keizer, noted there would be roughly \$6,700 of new System Development Charges funds available if needed. The courts would replace

businesses along River Road are as well. I probably didn't go about it the best way, but if you just write letters, no change occurs. I had to step it up."

Brown felt last Friday's meeting went well.

"We talked about what sign options he has and how he can increase his sign areas," Brown said. "He was friendly and agreeable. We returned his sign with a promise that he wouldn't place it on the sidewalk. All's well that ends well, I say."

Guisinger said he's fine being the lightning rod for controversy if it leads to changes benefiting Keizer businesses overall along River Road.

"My hope is that we do get a code change," Guisinger said. "This is the first step of many things so River Road can be successful. If that's what all of this is, then I'm all on board. It's not just for Moles, but for River Road as a whole. I want to help the community. Thankfully Nate was receptive and I'm glad we have people like Roland in our community. This was never about me. We want to fix bad code and policy."

the current sand court, which Schneider has previously indicated "wasn't built properly."

Schneider feels the project can be done as scheduled.

"Our hard costs are between \$32,000 and \$34,000," he said. "Between the money we're putting up, the grant money and SDC money, I think it is very doable."

The courts will be 119 feet in length, 73 feet wide. That would require the excavation and removal of 750 yards of dirt. There would also be 12 inches of aggregate covered with a geotextile fabric and 20 to 24 inches of beach sand.

"The purpose of the three sand volleyball courts is to provide a place for the community of Keizer to play and practice volleyball," Schneider wrote in his application. "I am extremely interested in providing and developing a summer sand volleyball program for the youth of Keizer. This would be a huge benefit to both the local existing mid-high and high school volleyball programs."

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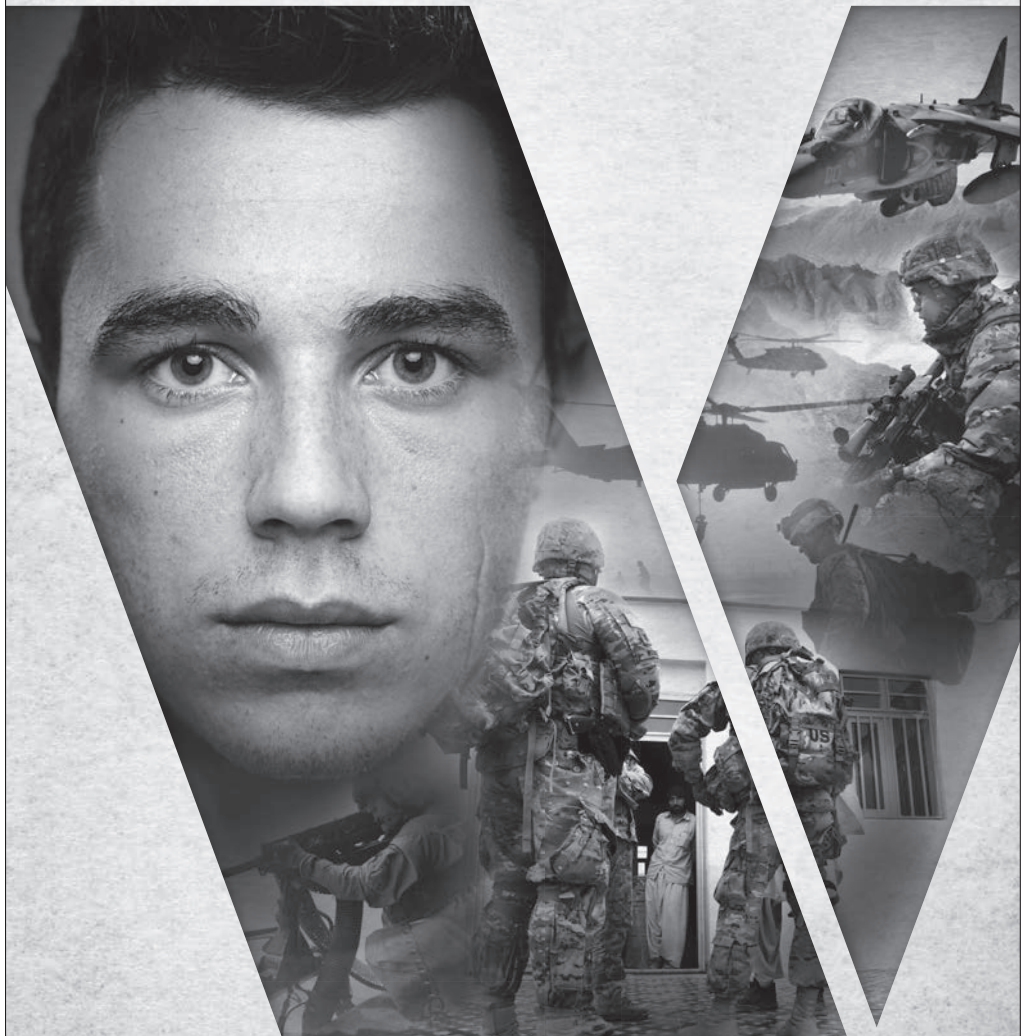
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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 Of a lung part
- 6 Aaron wallop
- 11 ___ Harlem Brundtland: Norway PM
- 14 Message boat
- 15 Saw
- 16 School dance
- 17 Spooky comedian?
- 19 Umpire's call
- 20 Kind of cap
- 21 Stain
- 22 Discernment
- 24 Slow thinker
- 26 Brought to a stop
- 27 Unpretentious one
- 30 Solzhenitsyn subject
- 31 Roman magistrate
- 32 Merit
- 34 Where: L.
- 37 Musical symbol
- 38 Coup follower
- 39 Roseanne, originally
- 40 Rainbow
- 41 Part of NYU
- 42 Pianist Claudio
- 43 Uses the microwave
- 46 Does cryptography
- 48 New York city
- 50 Clairvoyant's comment
- 51 Te Kanawa, for one
- 52 Dog in Oz
- 53 Veal source
- 57 Miller or Sothern
- 58 Spooky composer?
- 61 Rink surface
- 62 Re: birds
- 63 Flying Dutchman heroine
- 64 This place only: abbr.
- 65 Failing
- 66 Revoke, at the bar
- 18 Spanish river
- 23 In the manner of
- 25 Mine find
- 26 Quest
- 27 Ms. Horne
- 28 Bouquet
- 29 Spooky furculae?
- 30 Eerie marker
- 33 When some lunch hours start
- 35 Scottish hillside
- 36 Odyssey beggar
- 38 Tax
- 39 Introduced
- 42 Expert
- 44 Corn unit
- 45 Beast
- 47 Garish light
- 48 In great haste
- 49 Spear
- 50 Jots
- 52 Stumble
- 54 Tops
- 55 Old stringed instrument
- 56 Drumbeat
- 59 Eggs, to Cato
- 60 Youth gp.

DOWN

- 1 Spree
- 2 Hot spot
- 3 Endure
- 4 Congregate
- 5 Korean soldier
- 6 Spooky times
- 7 Greek theater
- 8 Dillon
- 9 Conceit
- 10 Hertz offering
- 11 Spooky service branch?
- 12 Way
- 13 Chose