

## BIG TOY, continued from Page A1

Lawyer believes it's safe to conclude there are no safety concerns at the Big Toy site due to pesticides. He points to another reason why Weathers wants out of the lease.

"It is the fear of a litigious society," Lawyer said. "It's the fear of being sued when you're doing nothing wrong. The Big Toy area is shown as non-detected for all the particles."

The issue of pesticides in relation to the Big Toy site was brought up a couple of times last year. For example, last spring Jim Taylor addressed the topic.

"When (Weathers) sprays, he would let us know," the former councilor said at the time. "We would just close it for a couple of hours. We would do it early in the morning so it won't be an issue. I've never heard of complaints about spraying by the house out there. It's not an issue."

Richard Walsh, who lives right by the orchard, mentioned the topic at a meeting last fall.

"No one has spent more hours in the orchard area than I have," Walsh said at a Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. "I haven't seen it be a problem. I've been out there most every night the last couple of years. The play structure will probably be closed the days they do the spraying."

Mark Caillier, general coordinator for the Big Toy project, said there will be a 40-foot buffer around the play structure and a sprinkler system in the center of the toy just for that reason.

"We did include the sprinkler system to wash away any fungicides," Caillier said. "If they need to close the toy for a couple of days (at spraying time), they will do that. But once the stuff dries, from what I've been told it's not going anywhere."

For Caillier and other project leaders, the bigger concern has been getting enough people signed up for the five days of building. Volunteers can sign up at [www.keizerbigtoy.org](http://www.keizerbigtoy.org) or they can show up between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. during any of the five days (see related story, pg. A2).

"We still need volunteers,

especially for Wednesday through Friday," Caillier said. "That really sets the tone for the last two days. There will be a lot of staining, painting, priming and clearcoating to do. We'll get a lot of the material prep work done in the early days. It's an assembly line manufacturing environment. Each group of three volunteers will have their parts to put together. We will have three shifts. People can come anytime they want."

Three semi trucks of material were delivered to the site on Monday, with 52 saw horses made last Saturday to help the process. A parking area will be clearly marked along the Walsh Way entrance to the park, the road that leads to the boat ramp.

Caillier echoed Ron and Kim Freeman, who are in charge of volunteers, in predicting many people will simply show up without signing up in advance.

"The term used for that is spontaneous volunteerism, where people just show up and volunteer," Caillier said. "That has been the trend in volunteer projects. We've seen it in Claggett Creek Watershed projects."

## PAYTON, continued from Page A1

"The support was huge for us. Even a text or comment on the post made to Facebook or Twitter made a big difference for me. It was a huge battle, and we had a full community in this fight," said Kim Williams, Payton's mother. "The sheer number of people pitching in was overwhelming."

Being at the center of such attention was "weird and surreal" for Payton.

"You don't expect something like this to happen, and then you don't expect people you don't even know wanting to do whatever they can," he said.

Payton was fortunate he had most of the credits needed to graduate before his senior year began, especially since his recovery has been difficult.

"I know my mind still isn't where it was, and my body definitely isn't, but I also know it will get there. Attitude really changes everything. When I was diagnosed, I knew I could either shut down or live life and I did whatever I could to maximize my time," he said.

Kim said the family simply tried to follow Payton's lead.

"It was hard knowing when he was pretending, but he was such a rock through all of it that it made us stand behind him and be strong," she said.

In a week, Payton and his family will leave for Hawaii as his Make-A-Wish gift for surviving his battle. He also got the chance to meet his sports idol Marcus Mariota as part of the whole package, which included a VIP spot on the Make-A-Wish float during the Rose Festival Parade.

"I was still kind of out of



Submitted Thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Payton Williams got to meet his sports idol, Oregon's Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota, last season.

it after chemotherapy the day we met Mariota, but he was a really nice guy and he gave me his number. I got to see him try out for the Rams and throw a ball around with him for a bit," Payton said.

After graduation, Payton said he plans to sleep a lot before starting up as a bioengineering major at Oregon State University this fall. He

knows that will be hard for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is missing almost a year's worth of school, but he's not interested in excuses.

"I know next year is going to be tough and a lot of struggle. But whatever it is, I'm going to get through it. It can't be any harder than what I've already been through," Payton said.

## Teen moved to rehab center

The Keizer teenager critically injured in a May 22 crash continues to improve.

Austin Verboort, 16, was injured when his 1995 Jeep was t-boned by a 1986 Chevrolet Blazer shortly after McNary High School was released for Memorial Day weekend. Verboort's injuries were described as critical and he was in a coma at Salem Hospital.

The two other 16-year-olds in the accident were both released by the following morning.

A GoFundMe account ([www.gofundme.com/vaees](http://www.gofundme.com/vaees)) has raised more than \$22,000 in funds for the family as of Wednesday morning. The page was started by MHS student Wade Gilmour, who then turned the page over to Paula Keller-Phelps.

Another update to the page was posted on Tuesday evening.

"We got Austin moved this morning to Randall's Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel," the post stated. "He has already started rehab and physical therapy as of this morning. This hospital is more specific to his current needs and he is surrounded by patients closer to his age. He is in about the same condition as before, in a coma, but still moving around in his bed. We are very excited to begin this phase here at Randall's."

The Verboorts released a statement on Monday evening.

"Austin remains medically stable and we are encouraged by his progress each day," the statement said in part. "We are very thankful for the wonderful care he has received at Salem Hospital. We feel so blessed and thankful for the tremendous outpouring of love, emotional and spiritual support and financial generosity we continue to receive each and every day on behalf of our Austin Verboort. Our community is truly amazing. Please keep the prayers coming."

Salem Hospital upgraded Verboort's condition from critical to fair on Monday.

Dutch Bros. Coffee in Keizer donated all sales from Wednesday, June 3 to the family to help with medical expenses.

Last Wednesday, May 27, more than 100 family members and friends attended a prayer vigil for Verboort at Dayspring Fellowship Church.



Verboort

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