

Keizertimes

SECTION A

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Mom pleads guilty in fatal fire case

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

A Keizer mom has pleaded guilty in a case involving the death of her 4-year-old son.

Niya Breann Sosa-Martinez, now 24, pleaded guilty to three charges earlier this month, including manslaughter in the first degree. Fire destroyed the apartment on Susan Court Sosa-Martinez shared with her two young children last Oct. 24. Sosa-Martinez was able to get out but 4-year-old Andre Joaquin Sosa died in the fire. His older sister, 6 at the time, was at school when the fire broke out.



Sosa-Martinez

A trial was set to begin in late August, but the guilty pleas mean that won't be taking place. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for July 22.

In court papers dated June 9, Sosa-Martinez pleaded guilty to the manslaughter charge as well as two counts

of endangering the welfare of a minor, one count for each child. The papers call for a sentence of 120 months in prison. Information from last fall indicated Sosa-Martinez's husband, Alex Sosa, was already in prison at the time of the incident.

While Sosa-Martinez did not write much in the court papers, what jumps out is her answer about the basis of her guilt.

"I allowed my minor children to remain in my home where I conducted illegal activity by using marijuana," she wrote in conjunction with court-appointed attorney Ron Gray. "Further, in using marijuana a fire started which caused the death of my 4-year-old son due to my neglect and reckless conduct."

Sosa-Martinez appeared in Marion County Circuit Court that day before Judge Courtland Geyer. Geyer read off each of the three counts, with Sosa-Martinez pleading guilty to each one.

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KEIZERTIMES file/Craig Murphy
A memorial was set up last October a short distance from the apartment fire that claimed the life of 4-year-old Andre Joaquin Sosa. His mom, Niya Breann Sosa-Martinez, has pleaded guilty to three charges, including manslaughter in the first degree.

Porter's to become Full Monty's in July

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Porter's Pub is changing hands – not to mention names and style – again.

The longtime bar is expected to reopen late next month as Full Monty's Bistro. There will be a public hearing on a liquor license application for the new business at the July 6 Keizer City Council meeting.

The change is the latest in a line of them. Don Porter opened Porter's Pub at 4820 River Road North in 1993 before passing away in May 2005. His daughter owned it next. After another owner took over, David Thomas bought the establishment in July 2012.

Denny and Lisa Graue bought the bar last spring and reopened it in May 2014, changing it into a sports bar and renaming it The Pub.

By February, the Graues were looking for a buyer.

Lance Case, who will serve as district manager for the new owners, said the new owners closed the transaction on June 15 and closed The Pub last Friday, June 19.

"Our hope is to be open late July," Case told the Keizertimes on Monday.

Case said the idea is for

the Keizer location to be the first of a series of Full Monty's restaurants, hence his district manager position.

"This is our first in this area," said Case, who noted all three men involved have extensive restaurant experience. "This will be the start of the Full Monty concept. We'll grow and learn our mistakes from this one. Our concept is a pub with fresh ground sirloin burgers, appetizers, salads and a full bar with 24 taps. The beers will change with the season and we'll have local brews."

Case said a key part of the concept is making Full Monty's family friendly.

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Case

Splash Fountain hours (kinda) set



KEIZERTIMES file/Craig Murphy
If forecasted high temperatures for Mondays and Tuesdays this summer are below 95 degrees, expect to see this sign at the Splash Fountain behind Keizer Civic Center.

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Hoping to use Keizer's Splash Fountain on Mondays and Tuesdays?

Better hope for extreme heat.

Next week might just qualify.

A heat wave is expected to hit Keizer this weekend, with highs forecasted to be in the 90s through next week. That includes upper 90s on Monday and Tuesday.

If that holds true, it will be enough to open Splash Fountain in Chalmers Jones Park behind the Keizer Civic Center at 930 Chemawa Road North.

Shortly after an inquiry from the Keizertimes on June 18, an announcement appeared on the city's Facebook page about the summer schedule.

"The Splash Fountain will operate Wednesday to Sunday," the announcement read in part. "The hours of operation will be from noon to 7 p.m. This schedule will continue through the Labor Day holiday weekend. Please note that the operation will be dependent on the forecasted temperature being 75 degrees or higher."

On Wednesday Bill Lawyer, Public Works director for

Keizer, said the fountain could be open Mondays and Tuesdays, but only if a rather stiff requirement is met.

"Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays for maintenance unless the forecasted temperature is 95 degrees or above and then it will be open the same hours," Lawyer said.

The same issue was brought up last year, when the Keizertimes questioned why the fountain, which was first operational on a limited basis in 2010, couldn't be open on all hot days.

Robert Johnson, parks supervisor for Keizer, gave two reasons last July for the fountain being closed two days a week.

"It gives us time to do routine maintenance," Johnson said at the time. "We hired a temporary person, not a city employee, to do an off-set schedule, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. He can only work five days a week. To have it open seven days a week, we would have to bring in an additional person and the funds are not available."

Johnson indicated changing the schedule was up to Lawyer, who in turn pointed back in Johnson's direction.

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Saturday in the park...



KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon A. Zaitz
It may not have been the 4th of July, but Keizer Rapids Park was still a busy place last Saturday morning, June 20. Top: children and adults alike explore the new Big Toy play structure, which had its grand opening. Above: Walkers and their dogs start the Bark for Life event, which was a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. For more photos of both events, please see the respective photo albums on the Keizertimes Facebook page.

Mural timeline uncertain
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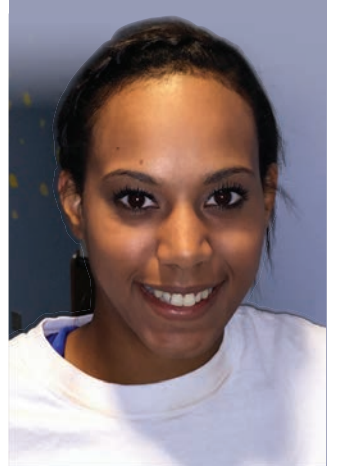


Weathers out of orchard lease
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Keizer PD holds Blast Camp
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Ito signs with George Fox
PAGE A10



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