

Boucher art at city hall



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

A Life's Work is the name of the exhibit on display through the end of the month at Keizer Civic Center, featuring more than 50 pieces of art done over the years by Louise Boucher.

Mmm...donuts



KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon A. Zaitz
Hanna Hawkes (left) and Mollie DeVos try to get motorists to stop for donuts last Saturday, June 20, with proceeds benefitting City Dance Theatre.

KAA shows wrapping up

The Keizer Art Association is presenting two concurrent shows in June at the Enid Joy Mount Gallery: "Photography" and "Fiber to Fashion."

The two shows run through June 27. The Enid Joy Mount Gallery is located in the Keizer Heritage Center at 980 Chemawa Road NE. Gallery hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Museum seeks pics, picks

The Keizer Heritage Museum is seeking photographs and tools from the public for an upcoming exhibit about agriculture in the great Keizer area. Photographs of summer picking by kids are particularly sought—pictures of riding the bus to crop fields, picking in berry and bean fields. Photographs of any kind of farming in the area are also invited. The museum is also seeking farming tools for the exhibit. Photos and tools can be donated to the museum or loaned for the duration of the exhibit. To donate or loan, contact Tammy Wild or Pat LaRock at keizerhistory@aol.com.

Weathers out of filbert orchard contract at KRP



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

Tony Weathers was granted a release from his contract to lease the filbert orchards at Keizer Rapids Park, due to his concerns about potential litigation regarding pesticides.

By CRAIG MURPHY Of the Keizertimes

City leaders have long lavished praise on Tony Weathers. Weathers and his Willamette Mission Farm Inc. business have leased orchards at Keizer Rapids Park for several years and harvested the filberts.

A contract signed in 2012 between Weathers and the city called for Weathers to lease the land through Feb. 28, 2017.

However, that lease has ended early. Keizer City Councilors on June 15 approved a request for Weathers to get out of the lease.

Weathers had been wanting out recently due to concerns of pesticides used in the orchards and the potential impact of those chemicals on the Big Toy play structure, located in the orchards and officially opened last Saturday after a week-long delay.

In brief comments to the Keizertimes last month, Weathers expressed concern over the possibility of liability.

"My concern is my ass being sued," Weathers said. "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 referenced those concerns at last week's council meeting.

"Willamette Mission Farm Inc. has requested termination of the lease due to concerns regarding the Big Toy play structure," Johnson said. "It

is my understanding that the council desires to allow the termination."

That was indeed the case. The lone item of discussion regarding the topic before the vote came from Marlene Parsons, who chaired the Community Build Task Force.

"Shannon, I do have a question," Parson said. "Is it possible to have this with an agreement (Weathers) remove the trees first before we terminate?"

Johnson noted City Manager Chris Eppley and Public Works director Bill Lawyer dealt more with Weathers, but figured the request would not go over well.

"I think it would be pretty difficult," Johnson said. "He's been really good to work with. We had nothing in the lease to require him to give up acreage for the Big Toy. Until it was actually on the ground, maybe he didn't perceive some possible repercussions. That (request for removing trees) would be difficult for him to swallow."

Johnson noted the termination means the city will be losing the \$9,000 a year from the lease, though there has been some question of how much longer the trees will be producing filberts anyway. There was no indication at the meeting of another person or group interested in stepping up to take over the lease.

Councilors unanimously approved the motion to terminate the contract.

"Unfortunately he gets out of the lease," mayor Cathy Clark said.

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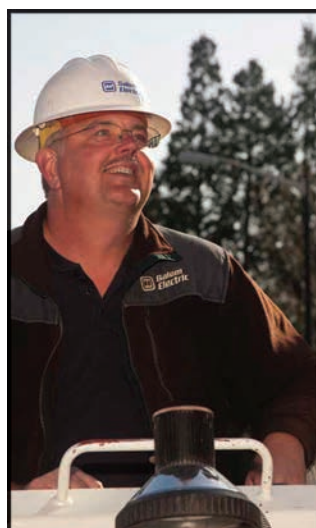
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