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Big Toy paving



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

Construction crews worked in extreme heat recently to pave the parking area and entrance to the Big Toy play structure at Keizer Rapids Park.

A four decker burger?

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Some details have yet to be nailed down in regards to a famed Keizer pub.

As mentioned recently in the *Keizertimes*, Porter's Pub will be reopened soon under a new name with new owners. Peter Keller and Dennis Ekstrom, both veterans in the restaurant business – Denny's in particular – will be reopening the restaurant at 4820 River Road soon as Full Monty's Burger Bistro.

Keller was the lone audience member at Monday's Keizer City Council meeting, speaking during a public hearing for his liquor license change request to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

Keller noted he lives in Vancouver, Wash. and has been commuting to Keizer recently to work on the business.

"We started the renovations today," he said afterwards. "We're hoping to be open in four weeks."

Keller told councilors both he and Arizona's Ekstrom have longtime affiliation with Denny's.

"I have run nine of them, while my partner is a CFO and runs 90 Denny's."

Keller also explained why the partners are in Keizer.

"We stumbled across The Pub," he said. "It was underperforming the way it was. It was underperforming with the leadership that was there. We want to make it a lot more family friendly and do a lot more with the food. It had a great reputation at one point. We fully intend to bring that back."

The previous owner, Denny Graue, indicated frustration recently to the *Keizertimes*.

"The support wasn't that

great," Graue said in a story published June 26. "We were losing money...It was disappointing, but if the business isn't thriving there's no use in keeping going. There are so many bars along River Road, the city can only support so much. The reputation of the place after Don Porter passed got worse and worse. We were trying to fix the mistakes of everyone that came after him."

Mayor Cathy Clark welcomed Keller to Keizer on Monday, while councilor Amy Ripp noted she's been getting questions about the name.

Keller said artwork is being worked on.

"We'll have a guy holding a big burger," he said. "We're still polishing his caricature. It will be on our logo and sign. He'll have a big smiling face. We're going to be doing stuff with burgers. The menu is still evolving. It's possible we'll have a four-decker burger. A single decker is a quarter Monty, while four parts is the Full Monty."

Though Keller is applying for his liquor license – councilors approved the request unanimously and forwarded it to the OLCC for final approval – that won't be the main focus.

"It's not our intent to sell a lot of liquor," he said. "We will have kids in there until 9 p.m. We want to be more food-based and family friendly. We just started the renovation today. We're putting more than \$100,000 into the place. I've heard from our employees a lot is happening on social media about our establishment."

Keller noted he's been warmly embraced in Keizer so far.

"We've been very happy with the people in Keizer," he

said. "There's a feeling of welcome up and down the street. You wouldn't get that in Portland. There is this atmosphere we wouldn't get up north."

Keller said afterwards more research is being done.

"We will not just be burgers," he said. "We want to find what the community wants. I've been visiting businesses and our employees know what others are telling us."

In other business Monday, July 6:

- City Manager Chris Eppley said a hearing at the July 20 council meeting for real estate potentially for sale is property in Keizer Station Area C owned by the city. The address is listed as 2110 Chemawa Road NE.

- "We purchased the lot on the east side of Chemawa off Lockhaven (Drive) many years ago, when Area C was starting to percolate," Eppley said. "We knew it would be needed for right-of-way in the future, so we locked up some properties. We're using it for right-of-way, then what's left will be sold."

- The city's new website finally went live last week, more than a year after the project started. Eppley noted Tim Wood, the city's assistant controller, was the key point person for government website developer Evo Gov to work with. The work began in May 2014.

- "Tim Wood was the main person involved with the website," Eppley said. "It was a long effort. The site looks great."

- Wood noted before the meeting most of the material went up last week, with the expected few glitches to be worked on as they become known.

death notice

Neville J. Grieve

July 17, 1921 - June 25, 2015

A celebration of life service will be held for Neville J. Grieve at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 17 at Keizer Senior Center, 930 Plymouth Drive NE in Keizer.

Assisting the family is Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service.

CONCEAL CARRY PERMIT CLASS

MONDAY, AUGUST 10TH

1PM -or- 6PM at Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Rd NE

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KT on vacation



Submitted photo

Keizertimes bookkeeper Laurie Painter (left) literally took her work with her on a recent vacation to Jamaica with her husband Chris (right). You too can have your photo in the *Keizertimes*. Simply take the paper to your destination, snap a picture with you and your group holding it, and send the photo along with everyone's first and last names to kt@keizertimes.com.

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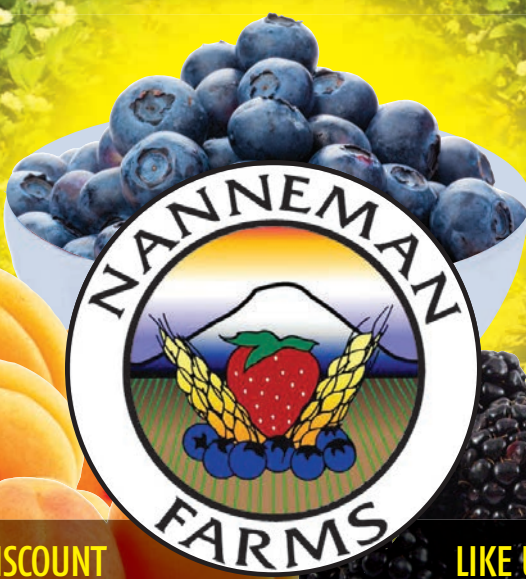
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