

Progress made in Area C project



Trees are being taken down and the land cleared for an extension of McLeod Lane off of Chemawa Road, as seen July 17.

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

Trees are being taken down to make way for the road and permits are being submitted.

Yes, plans for apartments and senior housing in Keizer Station Area C are moving forward.

Plans submitted by Bonaventure Senior Living for a 154-unit retirement community and Mountain West Investment Corporation for 180 apartments were approved by the Keizer City Council earlier this year. The new structures will be built on an expanded section of McLeod Lane, which currently ends at Chemawa Road.

In the last couple of weeks, trees have been taken down

and the land is being cleared in the field just east of Chemawa.

“Construction is starting,” said Brian Moore, director of Real Estate Development for Mountain West. “All of the public improvements including streets will be some of the first work done, with utility and grading work done at the sites.”

The work has included submitting permits. This month alone, 18 permits have been applied for by Mountain West apartments – 17 buildings, in addition to a maintenance building. The 17 buildings range in valuation from \$371,852 to \$1,396,910. The

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Hearing held for new subdivision



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

A proposal calls for converting this 5.73 acre piece of land into a 32-home subdivision called Bowden Meadows.

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

Some concerns were expressed July 16 regarding a proposed new housing development in west Keizer.

And no, concerns weren't just expressed by the neighbors.

Three neighbors did express various concerns before Hearings Officer Cynthia Domas, who conducted a public hearing on a proposal to turn 5.73 acres of land on Burbank Street into a 32-lot subdivision known as Bowden

Meadows. The lots would range in size from 5,000 square feet to 10,856 square feet with the average lot being 6,033 square feet.

The project applicant is Mark Farrow on behalf of Trademark Enterprises LLC for property owned by Robert Bowden and Doug Harner on behalf of JDC Homes LLC.

Sam Litke, senior planner for Keizer, noted the subdivision was planned several years ago.

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Mom sentenced for death of son in fire

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

The mom who pleaded guilty in the death of her 4-year-old son last fall was sentenced on Wednesday.

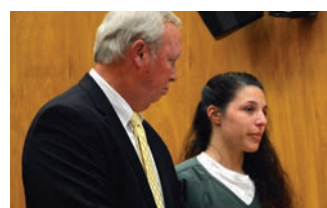
Marion County Circuit Court Judge Courtland Geyer sentenced Niya Breann Sosa-Martinez to 11 years in prison. Sosa-Martinez, 24, pleaded guilty to three charges last month, including manslaughter in the first degree.

The case stems from a fire last Oct. 24 that destroyed the apartment on Susan Court Sosa-Martinez shared with her two young children. 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.

A trial had been scheduled to start in late August, but the guilty pleas meant that wouldn't be happening and instead made the sentencing the last step.

In court papers from last month, 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 called 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.

When Sosa-Martinez was first indicted last fall, it was



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
Niya Sosa-Martinez (right) speaks at her sentencing Wednesday. She was given 11 years in prison.

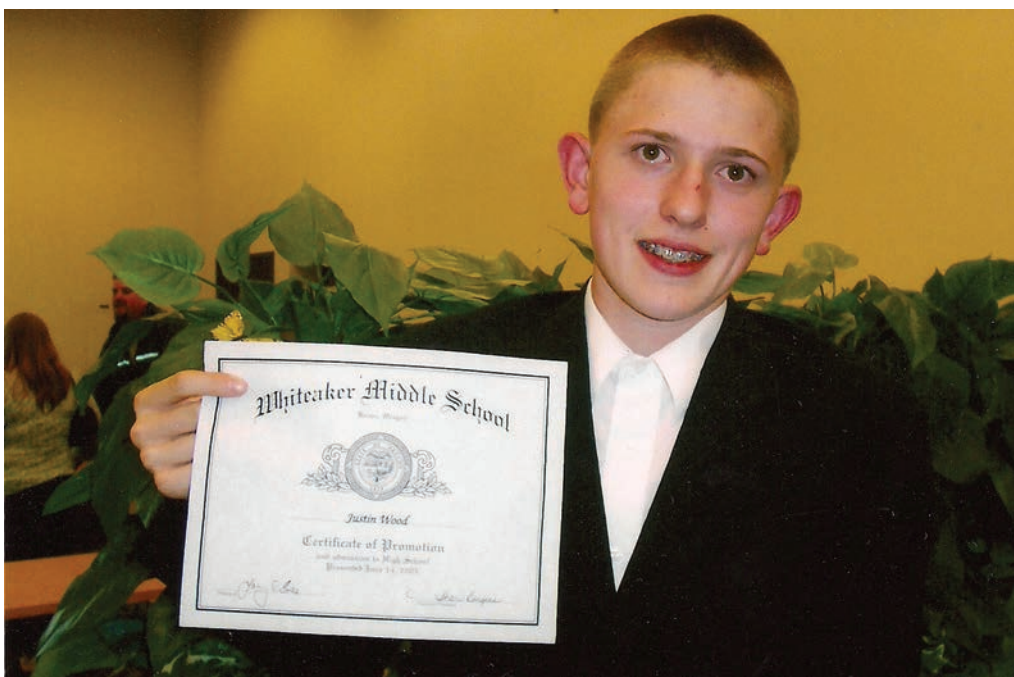
mentioned in court she had been on drugs at the time of the fire. Sosa-Martinez confirmed that in the court papers.

“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.”

It was also mentioned last fall Sosa-Martinez pleaded guilty in 2012 to child neglect. She had been found in possession of marijuana twice since then.

When Keizer Fire District personnel responded to the fire call at the Sosa-Martinez residence last October, her son's body was found inside. A witness told the *Keizertimes* Sosa-Martinez did not go back in an attempt to save her son and instead “started texting like nothing was happening. We couldn't figure out what the hell she was doing.”

Keizer youth remembered, 10 years later



Submitted
Justin Wood proudly holds his promotion certificate from Whiteaker Middle School in June 2005. A month later, the 14-year-old was gone. He was remembered last weekend.

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

It warms Brandy Thomas' heart to know her son is still remembered.

About 50 friends and family members came to the Best Western Mill Creek Inn in Salem on July 18 to commemorate the 10-year passing of Justin Wood.

Justin was 14 at the time, preparing for his freshman year at McNary High School after previously having gone to Clear Lake Elementary and Whiteaker Middle School.

“It feels good that people still think of him. He's still touching lives,” said Thomas, who noted Justin had been on track to become an Eagle Scout. “There is a scout service award in his name. They

still remember him every year.”

On July 16, 2005 Justin was floating on tubes in the Jordan Valley with family members including an uncle, his grandfather and some cousins.

“My brother's son got into trouble,” Brandy Thomas recalled. “Justin went to help and got into trouble himself. They fell into a hole. My brother grabbed for his son, but they couldn't find Justin.”

The incident happened on a Saturday afternoon. Justin's body was found about a half-mile away the next morning.

Brandy got the call that Saturday afternoon from her ex-husband (Justin's dad), who was with the group in Eastern Oregon.

“My husband and I were

doing shopping that day,” Brandy said. “It was just a normal day. The phone call was unreal. I remember every single detail from that day, what I had bought and everything. I never wore the shoes I bought that day.”

Friends got Brandy and her husband on a private plane the next morning. They were there when Justin's body was found. A memorial marks the site.

In addition to support from her large family – Brandy has 11 brothers and sisters – the Latter Day of Saints Church and Boys Scouts ward immediately stepped up to help.

“We got a lot of support,” Brandy said. “They were there

Please see JUSTIN, Page A12

Mobile home destroyed in blaze



Submitted
Five adults, four children and pets were displaced by this fire at a mobile home on the 2000 block of Kennedy Circle NE in Keizer on July 15. According to the Keizer Fire District, the cause is still undetermined. Damage was estimated at about \$7,000 plus contents, in addition to \$1,000 in damage to a neighboring home.



Sand volleyball courts

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Town & Country manager leaves

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Errors hamper Volcanoes

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Acting up

PAGE A12



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