



A large amount of stolen equipment was found at a house on Marino Drive Tuesday. Four people have been arrested so far.

KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

Theft ring cracked on Marino Drive

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

A neighborhood nuisance on Marino Drive is no more. Around 5 a.m. Tuesday, officers from various agencies served a search warrant at 555 Marino Drive North in Keizer and arrested Alexandria and Donnie Carpenter, Yvonne Connors and Rudy Sobremonte.

Officers then spent the rest

of the day processing the theft ring scene. And what a scene it was. There were cars, utility trailers, ATVs, quads and various wheels, compressors and construction tools galore. That was just the stuff found outside and in the garage. “There was a whole bunch of stolen property,” said Jeff Kuhns, deputy chief with the Keizer Police Department.

“This is a serious theft ring. It sounds like maybe these people were going to new construction sites and ripping off doors and new appliances, anything not secured down. This is a really extensive ring.” Lt. Andrew Copeland used a highly technical term to describe the scene. “This is a really huge cluster,” Copeland said.

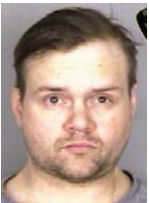
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77 lbs of pot seized

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

While medical marijuana may be legal in Oregon, there are limits. Keizer’s David Lester Nicholson found that out the hard way.

Shortly after 1 a.m. Jan. 18, Sergeant Jeff Goodman with the Keizer Police Department observed 39-year-old Nicholson driving a U-Haul van eastbound on Lockhaven Drive Northeast from River Road North. Goodman paced the vehicle and found it was traveling at about 50 mph in a 35 mph zone and thus pulled the



Nicholson

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Vets help out a brother

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Make no mistake, Terry Lowells greatly appreciated the new ramp. But his favorite part was something that couldn’t be seen.

“One big thing is missing: the red tape,” Terry said with a big smile.

Terry, who served with the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, had a third knee operation this week. As such, the steps at his house on Bever Drive were getting too hard to navigate.

Wife Sherry didn’t know where else to turn, so last Saturday she called up Marion Post 661 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Salem.

“I was asking if they knew of services that might be available,” Sherry said. “I just



wanted information about where to go. I was expecting several months of waiting.”

It didn’t take that long. Not even close, actually.

The next day, Joe Ramp called some veterans together at the VFW and explained the need. On Monday, a group of veterans – Tom Reeves, Eric Jones, Jesus Montes, Tom Vanderhoof and Wes Larson –

“One big thing is missing: the red tape.”

— Terry Lowells

equipped with tools and lumber showed up at the Lowells house.

“This is a community project from the post, part of Vets Helping Vets,” Vanderhoof said. “Joe rounded us all up. It needs to be done by the end of today. They found an infection in Terry’s knee, so he can’t get up and down the three steps in front of his home. This is an emergency project.”

Reeves was in charge of the design and project overall, fitting since he was

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KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
Terry (middle left) and Sherry Lowells (middle) have a new ramp at their home thanks to VFW volunteers Tom Vanderhoof, Jesus Montes, Wes Larson, Tom Reeves and Eric Jones.

Heroin: A devious liar with a powerful pull

By SAMANTHA NIXON
For the Keizertimes

Editor’s Note: In a recent Chasing Dark story, Elizabeth Smith talked about her daughter Sam Nixon’s struggles with heroin. This is Sam’s first person tale of what she went through and what she wants others to know about heroin.

I’m sure people who have never tried heroin think, “Why would anyone ever want to?”

We hear stories about overdoses, arrests and beautiful souls’ transformations into unrecognizable individuals all the time.

We’re in the midst of an epidemic, and I want to say first and foremost: heroin does



Chasing Dark is an ongoing series looking at heroin abuse in Keizer. For past stories, please visit keizertimes.com/category/chasing-dark/

not discriminate.

Some of us are more susceptible to becoming enslaved in the throes of addiction due to a complex combination of genetics, circumstances, mental illnesses

and social factors. But heroin does not care about the superficial differences that trick us into believing the lie that we or our loved ones are immune to her reach.

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Family files lawsuit vs. McNary Estates HOA

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

It started with a request last April.

It ended with the Kuhn family leaving their longtime McNary Estates home in August and filing a lawsuit against the McNary Estates Homeowners Association.

This marks the second time in less than five years the McNary Estates HOA has been sued over a Fair Housing Act complaint. A judge ruled against the HOA in the previous case, as mentioned in an August 2011 Keizertimes article.

Gary and Renee Kuhn sold their home as a result of what transpired over a four month period and moved, along with their 33-year-old special needs daughter Khrizma, to Woodburn in the fall.

In addition to the overall McNary Estates HOA, the Fountains HOA – one of



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
Khrizma Kuhn exits her family’s RV with a big smile on Tuesday.

five subgroups within the neighborhood – is also named, as well as McNary Estates HOA president Teresa Girod and former Fountains HOA president Richard LeDoux, who lived next door to the Kuhn family.

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