

# Roundabout on track for June start at Chemawa and Verda

By CRAIG MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Construction is still on schedule to start in June for the new roundabout at Chemawa Road and Verda Lane.

The Oregon Department of Transportation project, with a total cost of approximately \$1.8 million, should be open sometime in September.

"Construction is expected to start in early- to mid-June," said Bill Lawyer, Public Works director for Keizer. "It will take about three months to complete it enough to open it for traffic."

Once the roundabout is open for traffic, Lawyer noted finishing work like putting in plants could be done later.

Bids for the construction for the project were opened in November, with North Santiam Paving Co. submitting the low bid of \$838,731.60. That was about \$140,000 less than engineering estimates.

Recently, the trees on the southeast corner of the intersection were taken down. The Herber family farm property across Verda was proposed to be turned into apartments in 2014, but the plan was denied. A revised proposal is expected to be submitted to the city soon.

Even with that, Lawyer said the roundabout project won't be impacted.



KEIZERTIMES file/Craig Murphy  
Trees at the corner of Chemawa Road and Verda Lane were taken down recently, in advance of roundabout construction.

"Because of the denial of their application, it did affect the project in that we didn't have the right of way we needed," Lawyer said. "Part of their application was that they give the (right-of-way) rights. The project needed to purchase the property, so that's all done."

In other words, whereas the necessary land on the corner would have been given to the city had the application been accepted, ODOT instead had to purchase the necessary property.

"It was planned for in the beginning of the project," Lawyer said. "The project originally planned for having to purchase that."

According to Lee Crone-

millier with ODOT, the project was first included in the 2010-13 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Lawyer said and others on city staff - predecessor Rob Kissler and Nate Brown - were involved starting in June 2011 to help ODOT review plans from its consultant.

The project has been delayed twice, most recently being pushed back from last year to this year.

"It's not uncommon a project misses the original schedule," Lawyer said. "When there is acquisition necessary, as much as you would like it to go smooth and quick, it never does. Schedules are put together with an optimistic outlook on acquisition."

# May the force be with you at KHC



The Keizer Heritage Museum at the Keizer Heritage Center next to Keizer Civic Center is displaying a *Star Wars* exhibit from the collection of Keizerite David Sherman.

The *Star Wars* exhibit runs through June 1. Museum hours are 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Keizer Heritage Center is celebrating the 100th birthday of its building this year which will include special events in August and November.

A life-size Storm Trooper (left) is the centerpiece of the *Star Wars* exhibit.

KEIZERTIMES/  
Lyndon A. Zaitz

## Doing his civic duty



KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson  
Max Marshall takes out a load of debris during the fifth annual Civic Center Clean-up last Saturday, March 12 at Keizer Civic Center. Find more pictures on our Facebook page.

## puzzle answers

8	1	9	2	3	7	5	6	4
2	5	3	4	6	8	9	1	7
7	4	6	1	9	5	8	3	2
4	7	2	3	8	6	1	9	5
9	3	5	7	4	1	6	2	8
1	6	8	9	5	2	4	7	3
5	2	1	8	7	9	3	4	6
6	9	4	5	2	3	7	8	1
3	8	7	6	1	4	2	5	9

S	A	L	T	S	O	B	S	C	A	L	F	
T	R	E	E	E	G	R	E	T	A	S	I	A
R	E	N	D	C	L	E	A	R	M	O	L	D
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	E	A	T	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	
S	T	E	E	D	F	I	N	E	S	E	O	N
T	O	A	D	W	I	N	E	D	R	A	Z	E
E	R	R	H	A	N	G	S	L	E	P	E	R
P	E	N	G	U	I	N	S	P	I	E		
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P	E	O	N	R	O	A	R	S	C	I	T	E
E	R	L	E	S	I	N	G	E	O	D	E	R
D	Y	E	R	L	E	E	S	S	E	R	A	

## Mural progress



Wendy Lusby works on a design for Keizer's next public mural on March 7. The mural will be done this summer at Town & Country Lanes on River Road. The next mural meeting is March 22 at the Keizer Heritage Center.

KEIZERTIMES/  
Craig Murphy

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