

Keizertimes

SECTION A

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Church leads prep for Big Toy upgrade

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Even as volunteers surrounded the Big Toy with 600 cubic yards of wood chips in 2015, it was never intended to be the permanent solution. Original plans called for a pour-in-place surface for added safety, but the idea was jettisoned to save money. When the opportunity to apply for an Oregon Parks and Recreation Local

Government Grant in 2016 arose, a new play surface for the Big Toy was added to the request along with pedestrian trails and an enclosed bathroom.

The grant was approved, but now thousands of pounds of wood chips have to be removed to make way for the new surface. The city was lucky to find a small army of volunteers in the Keizer Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

"In a lot of settings, people look at Mormons and

"This is a community effort, not just a Mormon effort. We want to work side-by-side by the community."

— Dan Kohler,
 LDS Church Representative

think we're off in our own world. This is a way to reach out beyond that perceived wall," said Dan Kohler, the community engagement coordinator for the Keizer Stake.

The Keizer Stake of the church includes several

individual congregations between Salem and Woodburn, and Kohler is hoping, between the church and the community, to turn out about 300 volunteers and remove all the wood chips in a single day.

Volunteers can sign up

for shifts at www.justserve.org. Type in the ZIP code "97303" and choose the Big Toy project. Volunteers are also welcome to show up at the the Big Toy on the day of the

Upgrade. Please see UPGRADE, Page A10

Board looks to prioritize in wake of parks fee passage

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is asking supporters and skeptics to help shape the future of Keizer's parks at its meeting Tuesday, Sept. 12.

During the meeting, the board will discuss the way forward now that the city will begin collecting a \$4-per-month fee to create a dedicated parks fund.

"We're looking for those individuals intimately familiar with their own park who can come in and bring up issues we haven't noticed. I'm also hoping for some nay-sayers because I think that will help make the process as transparent as possible," said Matt Lawyer, a member of the parks board, in a presentation to the Keizer City Council Monday, Aug. 21.

At the last meeting of the parks board, whether to have the meeting became a point of contention, but there is pressure to come up with a list of projects the city can announce and deliver on in the coming months and years.

"The fee is official and we are moving forward, but we didn't have immediate measurable deliverables like Keizer police," Lawyer said. "The parks plan was quite a bit less nuanced."

Lawyer didn't lay out
 Please see PARKS, Page A10

Landscaping code revamp meets skepticism at council

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A plan to amend the Keizer development code in regard to landscaping ran into pushback from members of the Keizer City Council at its meeting Monday, Aug. 21.

Community Development Director Nate Brown and the city's planning department are hoping to add another tool to its arsenal when businesses remodel or develop new property. The issue came to light as a result of two recent major remodeling projects on River Road North: Taco Bell and Winco.

Requests to bring landscaping up to code while remodeling fell on deaf ears with both companies, and Winco

Please see REVAMP, Page A10



Despite a multi-million dollar remodel, Winco refused to make changes bring the parking lot up to code. A plan to leverage future developments is making its way through city processes.

Fire tears through E. Keizer garage



A fire in the late evening of Tuesday, Aug. 29, left a family of four without a place to stay. The American Red Cross supplied temporary housing.

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Fire District responded to a garage fire at a single family home in the 5000 block of Courtlyn St. on Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 11:04 p.m.

While the fire was contained in the garage, the doors were left open, causing smoke and heat damage throughout the house.

KFD was on scene for more than two hours.

Red Cross disaster response volunteers were also called to the fire, providing resources to help address the immediate basic needs of those affected such as temporary housing, food, clothing, comfort kits, information about recovery services and health services.

The family, which includes three adults, one child and a pet, spent Tuesday night in a hotel.

Fall sports preview
SPECIAL SECTION

 A football player in a blue and white uniform is shown in a dynamic pose, running with the ball. The background is a stylized green and blue graphic.

Design meetings set for story poles
 PAGE A2

 A tall, thin tree trunk stands against a blue sky with light clouds. The image is part of a vertical banner.

New principals at two schools
 PAGE A3

 A woman with blonde hair, wearing a green cardigan over a patterned top, is smiling. She is standing in front of a stone wall.

Celts face off with North Salem on gridiron
 PAGE B1

 A football player in a blue uniform is running with the ball on a field. The image is part of a vertical banner.



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 A woman is sitting on the floor next to a white front-loading washing machine. She is smiling and looking at the camera.
LABOR DAY SALE
 THRU SEPT 7
SEND YOUR KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL WITH CLOTHES FROM A NEW WASHER!