

NEWS TRACKER

Here's a list of local issues that have been covered recently in the Gazette-Times and the status of those stories:

Dylan Cain

The story: Dylan Cain was born with cerebral palsy, was unable to walk and with limited vision. When he was born 5 years ago, Dylan's parents, Mark and Jinger Cain of Corvallis, banked his umbilical cord blood. In the spring, Dylan was taken to the Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina, where stem cells separated from that umbilical cord blood were infused into his system in the hopes that damaged cells would be repaired.

The latest: Jinger Cain said last week that Dylan has shown improvement in many areas. His vocabulary, which had been limited to about 10 words, has expanded greatly. He now calls himself "Tigger," after his favorite animated character and recently said to his mother "I ruv uoo" — something he has never been able to say before. He also is responding to questions such as "Dylan, are you hungry?" or "Do you want to eat?" He can now associate the words with objects such as a pet's name or his doctor's name. For the first time, he recently sucked from a straw in a cup at school. Dylan also is spending time in a hyperbaric chamber, which introduce pure oxygen into his system, in the hope that previously dormant cells will come to life.

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ANDY CRIFE/GAZETTE-TIMES

The Oregon State University drill team rides down Jefferson Avenue during Saturday's Homecoming Parade.

Lining up for the game