

Poppa Al's offers \$6 gift cards to locals affected by virus

Emily Teel
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Poppa Al's Famous Hamburgers, a burger spot in Mill City, is handing out 125 gift cards to front line health care workers, first-responders and others impacted by COVID-19.

Called the Poppa Cares program, each gift card will be loaded with \$6, enough for one of the restaurant's cheeseburgers or Super Budget Meals.

Poppa Al's owner Kevin Muniz was inspired to offer the cards as gifts to help Santiam Canyon residents – the Highway 22 corridor from Stayton to Idanha and Detroit Lake – struggling with the impact of the pandemic.

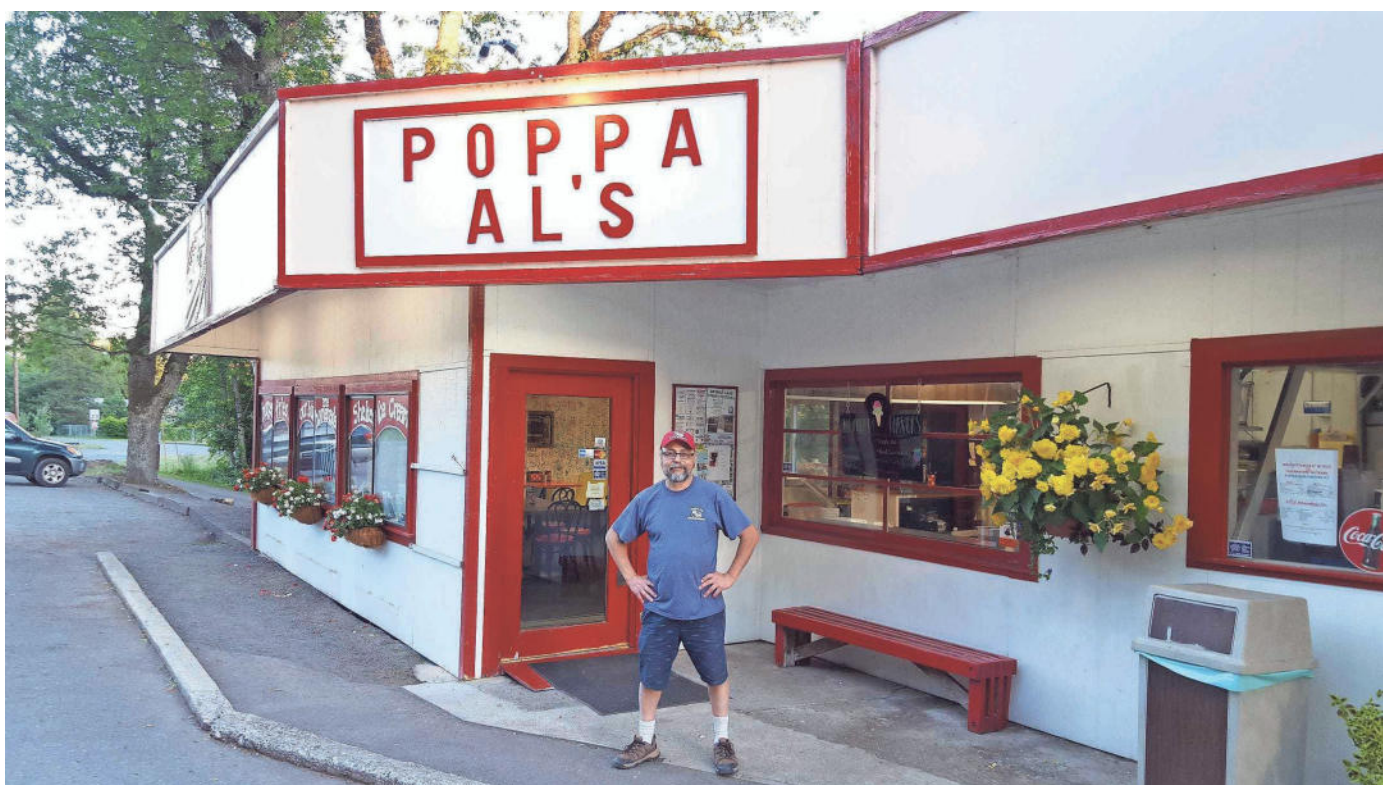
"If someone in their family or they themselves were ill with it, or they've lost work as a result of the economic shutdown," said Muniz, they're welcome to participate.

"We don't want to interrogate people or judge people," he added. "These are the qualifications, just tell us how you meet them."

In addition to the original value, Poppa Cares card recipients will receive a 20 percent discount on all purchases through the end of the year.

While some area restaurants have been closed by the economic impact of the pandemic, Muniz said business at Poppa Al's has been relatively strong in the past few months.

"We rebounded in April when the Health Department started shutting down other establishments," he said, crediting steady sales with the fact



Owner Kevin Muniz stands in front of Poppa Al's Famous Hamburgers in Mill City. COURTESY OF KEVIN MUNIZ

that Poppa Al's already has the type of take-out window that minimizes contact between staff and patrons.

"We're really set up for this kind of service.," he said.

"I was fortunate to be one of those businesses to get a PPP loan. I was able to keep all employees working even when things weren't looking so good, so this is my way of giving back."

To request a card or refer someone for the program, interested parties can call the restaurant, show up in person, or send a direct message to the Poppa Al's Facebook page.

Emily Teel is the Food & Drink Editor at the Statesman Journal. Contact her at eteel@statesmanjournal.com, Facebook, or Twitter. See what she's cooking and where she's eating this week on Instagram: @emily_teel

If you go:

Poppa Al's Famous Hamburgers

Where: 198 NE Santiam Blvd.

Mill City

Phone: 503-897-2223

More Information:

www.facebook.com/PoppaAls/

Climber

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you like an adult, even at that young age, and was just a really interesting kid."

His interests extended beyond the outdoors.

At the age of 16, Adelman rebuilt a Toyota truck. He worked on his grandparents' farm, rode horses and showed sheep at 4-H events, his mother said.

After graduating from Cascade High School in 2019, he'd entered Oregon State University to study agriculture business management.

A love for the mountains

In the mountains, Adelman found challenge and a tight-knit community. After taking the Chemeketans' climb school, he threw himself into all things high-altitude.

"He was a quick study and learned all the skills you need to safely travel in the mountains," Langford said. "He was always considered a strong part of the team — never as the kid who needed his hand held. A big reason was that he studied a lot. I've climbed with many adults who didn't do half the preparation that he did. When it came to navigation, he wasn't following — he knew where we were and was always a person to turn to and consult about the next step."

As his skill grew, Adelman began attempting more ambitious climbs, including Mount Olympus, considered a major accomplishment, and the Leuthold Couloir route up Mount Hood. He climbed and skied down Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens.

But he also loved his fellow climbers and the community of the Chemeketans.

"My favorite memories of him were from our Hood climb," said Drapiza. "I was down-climbing the area right after the Pearly Gates and he was coaching me — letting me know how far I was from the next step since we were moving backwards. They were big steps for my short legs. Later I found out how old he actually was. You just knew he had

an amazing future ahead of him."

In a Facebook post after the accident, Adelman's brother stressed what the climbing community meant to his brother.

"I just wanted to say that you guys were everything to Todd," his brother wrote. "Every weekend he looked forward to hike, climb, ski or train with whoever was available. You guys understood him and accepted him despite being younger and still learning."

The accident

Three Fingered Jack is a challenging and technical climb but was well within Adelman's skill, friends said.

He went with a climbing partner and took the standard route, climbing up steep rocks before using ropes to ascend a horizontal traverse known as "The Crawl." They again used ropes for the final pitch to the 7,844-foot summit, said Langford, who spoke with Adelman's climbing partner.

After that, they came down and made it back across The Crawl a second time. From there, the route crossed a class 3 scramble, meaning that it's exposed but climbers typically hike across the rock without ropes, using their hands to steady themselves here and there. It's a bad place to fall but is not considered a place where ropes are used.

At some point below The Crawl, the rocks gave way, causing Adelman to fall hundreds of feet, according to the Linn County Sheriff's Office. The mountain is known to have crumbly rock, similar to other Cascade volcanoes such as Broken Top, which Adelman had previously climbed.

"He was always so careful and cautious through anything remotely dangerous that it's hard to believe it would have been anything other than a fluke situation," Langford said. "But with climbing, there's only so much risk you can control."

Rescue teams from Eugene and Corvallis mountain rescue located Adelman's body at 7,300 feet.

In an email, Adelman's family "expressed gratitude to all the search and rescue organizations who helped bring Todd down from the mountain" and

"wanted to thank everyone who has reached out and helped support them during this difficult time."

Adelman's brother expressed thanks for the outpouring of support.

"I believe people die twice, once when they take their last breath, and again when their name is said for the last time," his bother wrote. "I can trust it will be a long time before he is really gone."

Zach Urness has been an outdoors reporter, photographer and videographer in Oregon for 12 years. To support his work, subscribe to the Statesman Journal.

Urness is the author of "Best Hikes with Kids: Oregon" and "Hiking Southern Oregon." He can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.



Todd Adelman, 19, of Aumsville, left, is seen here on the summit of Mount Hood with climbing partner Shonee Langford. Adelman died in a climbing accident on Three Fingered Jack last Sunday, July 19. DYLAN ZOEBELEIN /

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