

Manager leaves Town & Country Lanes after reader board incident

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

The fallout over a recent billboard message at Town & Country Lanes continued last week as manager Mardi Smith quit.

Smith had been at Keizer's bowling alley for 10 years and had been manager since 2010. Don Lebold has owned Town & Country for 47 years.

On July 2, Lebold posted a message about the recent Supreme Court decision allowing same sex marriages: "Judges making decisions contrary to the word of God will they themselves be judged."

Things were quiet for a few days, but word of the message went viral on July 7. By the next day, the message was making national headlines. Smith posted on the bowling alley's Facebook page the message was solely Lebold's and did not reflect any other employees at the business. There were immediately dozens of responses, most highly critical of the bowling alley. The post was eventually removed, but soon the page was filled with negative one-star reviews. By the end of last week, the Facebook page was taken down.

On July 15, Smith announced on her Facebook page she would be leaving her job.

"I regret that I now announce that I must separate myself from the leadership

of Town & Country Lanes," Smith wrote. "I am giving my reluctant resignation effective July 29 to pursue available business opportunities within our community with the same fervor and enthusiasm with which I have built relationships, programs and business collaborations with so many of you during my work at Town & Country. I look forward to new opportunities and thank each and everyone who supported me during this service."

By July 17, however, Smith had already left.

Lebold said last Friday he talked with Smith the day before about the sign board incident and the fallout for the first time, though Smith refuted that account and said there had been "many discussions" prior to July 16, the day she quit.

"I told her how unhappy I was with her for putting that message up on Facebook," Lebold said. "She really threw me under the bus. I was upset with her for not supporting me. I told her this all never would have happened if she had called me. What I said on the board was interpreted far differently from what I expected. I'm sorry my message was wrongly interpreted. God's word is my standard. I love people of all races and beliefs. I've never been accused of being discriminatory in my 47 years here."

Lebold noted he's had a les-

bian manager in the past and currently has two African-American employees and a bisexual employee.

"The bible is God's word," he said. "The bible makes it clear marriage is between a man and a woman. The bible also says you will be persecuted for your beliefs. That's exactly what is happening now. I'm being made out to be a bad guy. It shows how intolerant they are."

Lebold said he had received many cards and letters in support since the incident began, plus had 20 phone calls and 15 people stopping by to see him.

"There's never been one negative person that stopped by to talk with me," he said. "It's all been positive. There have been negative phone calls in the morning when I haven't been here, but I'm getting a lot of support from various pastors and others. I've been overwhelmed by the support. Almost all of the negative has been on the internet."

Smith on Tuesday had no regrets about her decision to leave.

"I will miss serving and interacting with the city," she said. "I enjoyed the last 10 years of business development and community collaboration. It's like the day you wake up and realize that your jeans don't fit. You can choose to be uncomfortable or wear something else."

Amphitheater project funded

By CRAIG MURPHY
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Jerry Nuttbrock's project lost its funding, but got it back.

Nuttbrock, a key player in the original construction of the Keizer Rapids Park amphitheater several years ago, has laid out a four-phase project to add amenities to the amphitheater. The first phase is a 2,400 square foot concrete patio.

In May, members of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved \$5,000 in funding from its matching grant program to help pay for the project. Nuttbrock's plan was to have the project done in June, also the end of the 2014-15 fiscal year.

A couple of factors – including the Big Toy project taking a week longer than anticipated – meant that didn't happen, so Nuttbrock temporarily lost his funding support. At last week's Parks Board meeting, he got the \$5,000 back.

"I am back with a grant proposal to replace my former grant proposal we didn't take advantage of," Nuttbrock told Parks Board members. "It's an issue of timing. I had a win-

dow in late June to get it done. That was my intention. It was a squeeze because we had to wait until the Big Toy was done. It gave me a couple of weeks. But it was during that hot weather. I can't pour when it's more than 90 degrees; it threatens the quality of the concrete."

Nuttbrock said another unexpected change took place.

"The city told me to submit receipts but the work itself didn't have to be done by the end of June," he said. "That changed, so that I did have to be done by the end of June. That's where we are. I'm back asking for \$5,000."

The overall project costs were different from what Nuttbrock had estimated in the spring. The total value is now \$25,305 which includes \$13,000 in corporate sponsorship, \$6,615 in labor, the \$5,000 from the matching grant and \$690 in private cash or material donations.

"These numbers represent the reality," said Nuttbrock, who refers to the amphitheater as Keizer's living room. "I'm already so far in, I know where we're at and what I expect it

to take to finish this project. On the numbers before, I was guessing. It is way beyond the 50 percent match."

Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said the project not being done – or funded – last fiscal year meant there was a balance of \$5,000 left over in the matching grant program.

"Staff has proposed going to city council soon and request a budget adjustment, where the \$5,000 unspent is allocated directly into the matching grant program for this year," Lawyer said. "So for 2015-16 the total allocation would be \$20,000, which is the \$15,000 plus the \$5,000 carried over."

Lawyer noted the hope is to get maximum use out of the project this summer with the free weekly concerts.

"The idea is so it can be enjoyed this summer for the concert series," Lawyer said. "This is the best overall approach."

Nuttbrock told Parks Board members he would be pouring the concrete when the weather cools a bit, which should mean this week.

Parks Board members unanimously approved the request.

traffic court

NO LICENSE

Wesley Ivar Sellevagg, \$267.
Helio Huerta Bedolla, \$260.

NO INSURANCE

Elizabeth Noelle Zepeda, \$260. Jaime Marcus Miotke, \$245. David Ybarra, \$225. Donna Lillian Miller, \$225. Angelique Smith, \$225.

NO PROOF OF INSURANCE

Daniel Alberto Garcia Arias, \$230.

DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED

Elizabeth Noelle Zepeda, \$435. Drew C. Winiger, \$395.

FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE

Mario Enrique Andrade Sr., \$225. Hailey Cassandra Decker, \$225. Dawn Riley, \$230.

SPEEDING

Celia Damian Palacios, \$145.


Ericka Marie Strausbaugh, \$135. Kelsey Elizabeth Lund, \$145. Sherry Lou Carlson, \$135. Drew M. McHugh, \$100. Joelle Dawn Davis, \$135.

USE OF MOBILE DEVICE

Erik Martin Cid, \$135.

OTHER

Alan Carl Stender, failure to use safety belts, \$110. Jessica Ann Edmiston, careless driving \$405. Sophia Lorraine Jefferson, careless driving, \$437. Micah Job Ebright, failure to register vehicle, \$40. Joshua David Martin, loitering, \$90. Christina Lynn Coleman, failure to drive within a lane, \$260. Emma Lee Wentworth, improper display of validating stickers, \$40. Jennifer Jean Doyle, dangerous left turn, \$260. Isaiah Matthew Burkhalter, careless driving, \$415. Cherie Dawn Hipp, improper display of validating stickers, \$40.



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GILGAMESH
KEIZER ROTARY AMPHITHEATER

2015 FREE Summer Concert Series

- June 20th: Bark for Life (American Cancer Society)
- June 27th: Kimberly Hall & Friends / Big Toy Thank You!
- July 11th: Patrick Lamb
- July 17th: Loafers (All-City Class Reunion-Open to Public)
- July 18th: Johnny Limbo & the Lugnuts
- July 23rd-25th: Shakespeare in the Park: A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Aug. 1st: Magical Mystery Four (Beatles Cover Band)
- Aug. 8th: RIVERfair (featuring Brady Goss)
- Aug. 14th: The Brian Odell Band
- Aug. 15th: The North Santiam Band
- Aug. 22nd: Pig-n-the-Park (Hawaiian Luau - Open to Public)
- Aug. 29th: Oregon Valley Boys
- Sept. 12th: Briana Renea

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