

Keizertimes

SECTION A

APRIL 14, 2017

\$1.00

Daycare shut down by DHS



KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson
Iris Valley Learning Center was closed by DHS last week.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The sign on the door claims Iris Valley Learning Center, 530 Dietz Avenue N.E., was closed by the Oregon Department of Human Services due to “paperwork issues.”

The truth is that the closure came after repeated violations of staffing and sanitation rules for child care facilities.

“Going back several years, we would find issues at the site related to staff or sanitation and we would add additional support and supervision. Things would improve for a while then go back to where they were when we stepped in,” said Dawn Woods, child care director for the Or-

IRIS VALLEY LEARNING CENTER IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED BY THE CHILDCARE DEPARTMENT DUE TO PAPERWORK ISSUES. WE ARE WORKING TO RECTIFY IT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND WILL NOTIFY YOU WHEN IT IS RESOLVED. IN THE MEANTIME, 211 IS THE NUMBER TO CALL TO FIND ALTERNATE CARE. WE ARE DEEPLY SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.

regon Department of Education (ODE) early learning division.

In March, representatives

of ODE notified owner Connie Williams they intended to revoke her license, but Williams did not respond. About two weeks ago, another complaint was received about the site and ODE officials made another visit to Iris Valley. After discovering that conditions had deteriorated again, the decision was made to shut it down.

Parents who planned to drop off their children Tuesday, April 4, found a note on the door notifying them of the closure and directing them to call 2-1-1 to find alternate care. The site is permitted to care for up to 115 children of varying ages.

Please see DAYCARE, Page A10

Crash-BOOM-bang

Wind storm leaves wreckage in wake

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Two trees felled by strong winds lay across Chemawa Road North and Northeast for most of a day while utility and public works crews scrambled to clean up and restore power throughout the mid-Willamette Valley Friday, April 7.

“We had to wait for PGE and Comcast to respond and remove the downed wires before the tree could be cut up and removed from the roadway,” said Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works director. “Given the strength and duration of the wind storm, we actually fared pretty well.”

Strong winds blew through the area causing a wide range of damages to homes, vehicles, businesses and impeding travel.

Please see STORM, Page A10



TOP & RIGHT: Vehicles and apartment garages both fell victim to the high winds at Lockhaven Hill Estates (Submitted by Devon Green). LEFT: A felled tree near the intersection of Chemawa Road Northeast and Kinglet Way Northeast blocked the road in both directions for most of the day.



CASA lands in Keizer

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

There’s another non-profit organization calling Keizer home.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) moved into the space formerly occupied by Keizer Liquor last week, and the move is a result of significant growth in the program during the last year.

Executive Director Shaney Starr joined the organization in May 2016. At the time, CASA had fewer than 50 volunteers to handle the cases of 561 children in foster care throughout Marion County.

“We were only getting about five to seven volunteers at each of our trainings, but we swore in 22 at our



KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon A. Zaitz
Pinwheels in the lawn of the new CASA office on River Road North represent children in foster care.

first class in this building over the weekend,” Starr said.

The organization needs about 200 volunteers to provide CASA representa-

tion that is mandated by the courts. Starr said the organization is close to 100 volunteers now.

Please see CASA, Page A13

Budget talks continue to frustrate citizens

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Adding officers to the Keizer Police Department has been one of the top priorities for the Keizer’s Budget Advisory Committee for the past several cycles. Yet, despite repeated advocacy on the part of committee members, there are no additional officers in the current draft budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The situation drew the displeasure of some members of

the committee at a meeting of the Long Range Planning Task Force Monday, April 10. The task force includes the budget committee and members of the Keizer City Council.

“We talk about police being a priority, but it obviously isn’t”

— Joseph Gillis, Budget Committee

“We talk about police being a priority, but it obviously isn’t because we haven’t done anything about it,” said Joseph Gillis, a member of the budget committee.

Jonathan Thompson, another member of the budget

Please see BUDGET, Page A13



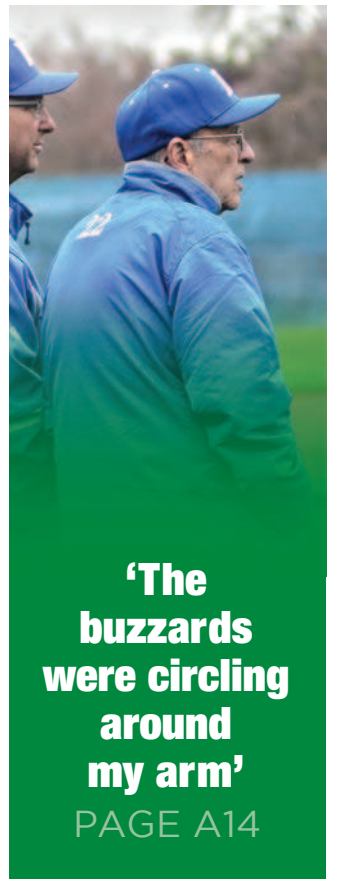
Girl Scout provides pals for patients
PAGE A5



Student art at Civic Center
PAGE A7



Arrest made in bomb threat
PAGE A8



‘The buzzards were circling around my arm’
PAGE A14



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