

Keizer child care operation accused of mistreatment



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Enchanted Child Care and Preschool had its emergency care license revoked last week.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

On Friday, May 15, a Keizer-based child care center had its license to provide emergency child care revoked on charges of mistreatment of children and more.

Enchanted Child Care & Preschool with locations on Chemawa Road North and Dietz Avenue Northeast as well as two Salem locations was ordered to stop providing care by Monday, May 18. Michelle Long is owner of the business and denies the allegations in a report from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). She has the right to request a hearing to appeal the charges.

Child Care facilities (currently operating as Emergency Child Care) had compliance findings against them. Two other locations were closed because the owner/operator and was suspended from the Central Background Registry," said Melanie Mesaros, communications director for the ODE Early Learning Division.

Long was suspended from the background registry as a result of the compliance violations. Mesaros stressed that it was only Long's license to provide emergency care during the COVID-19 pandemic that was revoked, the facilities might continue operating under its regular licenses once the charges.

"Two of the Enchanted

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Business loan winners revealed

More help could arrive soon

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The 18 winners of city-provided, forgivable business loans were selected Monday, May 18, but it may not be the end of what the city makes available to local businesses.

The winners of the forgivable loans were: Tom's Professional Services; AJ's Hideaway Bar and Grill; David B. Anderson, DDS, PC/Keizer Smiles; Jeff and Sheryl's; Keizer Sub Shop; N-K Inc. DBA Uptown Music; Los Chiles Inc. DBA Los Dos Hermanos; KARM Safety Solutions; Pro-Gutters LLC; Pronto Signs LLC; Red Ginger, Inc.; Reliable Computer Services; Santana Insurance; The Grass Hut; Town &

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Keizer Chamber extends reach during pandemic

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

In the weeks since Keizer-ties began sheltering at home and reducing the number of trips they've made, the Keizer Chamber of Commerce has redoubled its efforts to support the Keizer business community.

Part the opening salvo was quickly establishing social media communities where residents could find out which stores and restaurants were open, but quickly shifted to a deeper level of support.

"I personally touched 172 businesses in Marion County either in Zoom or in-person meetings," said Danielle Bethell, executive director of the Keizer chamber. "It's really just sitting and listening to a business owner and hearing about what their normal operations are like and then helping them break down operational costs to just stay open."



KEIZERTIMES/Lauren Murphy

Danielle Bethell, executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, accepts a donation of face masks from Marion County Commissioners Colm Willis, Kevin Cameron and Sam Brentano.

During the pandemic crisis, the Keizer chamber and its volunteer members are assisting members and non-members alike.

When one local restaurant was trying to navigate a change

to take-out service only, questions about delivering alcohol alongside meals arose. Bethell contacted some local breweries to determine what they were doing to navigate Oregon liquor regulations in addition to

the guidelines affecting all businesses during the pandemic.

"What it's amounted to for most businesses is a lot of confusion and feelings of being overwhelmed," Bethell said.

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Food truck operators chug along on River Road

By LAUREN MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

While restaurants are adapting to take-out only models, Keizer's resident food trucks are in their element.

"It really hasn't hurt our business that much since all the restaurants right now are take-out only, that's all we do is take-out," said Russ Rappe, co-owner of Thai Food Express, the red food truck that's recently appeared on River Road.

Rappe is relatively new to the food truck scene, though his wife, Su, has been operating Thai Food Express by herself for nearly four years. When they moved to River Road from South Salem, there were so many costumers Su had to recruit her husband to help.

Rappe retired from NORPAC Foods after 34 years to help his wife pursue her passion.

"She loves to cook, she loves to make people happy," Rappe said.

While the warm welcome of their truck is encouraging, it is now their sole source of income. Even with the increase in business they are "barely breaking even."

"I was going to move my prices up and change my menu before moving out here, but because everybody's struggling now we kept them low," Rappe said.

Though the majority of their business tactics have stayed the same, Rappe has made some changes in light of the virus.

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Troy Campbell



Russ and Su Rappe



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Josh Nelson hands off a box of fresh produce during a food delivery effort coordinated by St. Edward Catholic Church.

St. Ed partners with USDA to distribute food

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Some areas of Oregon may be reopening, but there are still many going without as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. St. Edward Catholic Church is helping feed the hungry with the assistance of the Archdiocese of Portland and a USDA grant.

For the next five weeks, St. Edward parishioners and volunteers will be passing out at least 500 food boxes to lo-

cal families in need. The next planned hand-out will be Monday, May 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. After that, St. Edward Business Manager Bonny Henny asked that those in need check the parish's Facebook page and website.

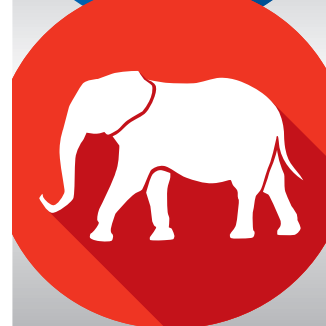
"What we really need now is someone with a refrigerated trailer that we can park on the site for the next few weeks to store the food as it comes in," Henny said.

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Volcanoes update

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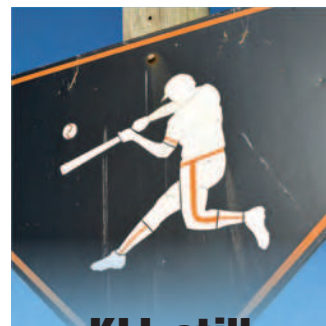
Election results

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Special delivery

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KLL still hopes for shortened season

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They don't need to leave home to live better



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seniorhelpers.com/or/salem

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