

## COVID-19 surge hits Keizer

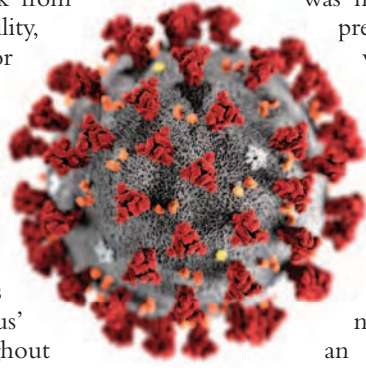
By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The COVID-19 surge is hitting Keizer harder than many other areas in the state.

On Wednesday, June 17, the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) weekly report on coronavirus cases found that the 97303 zip code had 24 more cases than just a week prior. The tally made Keizer one of the top nine areas in the state where coronavirus is spreading, according to a report by *The Oregonian*, which is keeping track of the weekly upticks throughout the state.

The 97303 zip code was also the only one of the top hot spots that was not linked to a large outbreak from a single facility, workplace or event.

Each week, the OHA is releasing pandemic-related statistics on the virus' spread throughout Oregon. On June 10, the OHA reported Keizer had 86 reported cases of



COVID-19 infection. A week later, the number jumped to 110. The June 24 report was not available at press time, we will update this story online at keizertimes.com as soon as it is available.

While Keizer does not have an identified outbreak of coronavirus, the Oregon State Penitentiary, Santiam

Correctional Institution, Salem Hospital, NorPac, BrucePac and the Amazon facility, all in neighboring zip codes, have had reported outbreaks.

It is possible that Keizer's surge in cases could be linked to those outbreaks and employees that live here, but those details are not part of OHA's reporting.

A previous outbreak at The Oaks at Sherwood Park that included 14 known cases of COVID-19 and one death has been contained. The only other reported outbreak linked to Keizer was

three cases and one death at Avamere Court at Keizer.

On Monday, June 22, Marion County set a new record with 51 residents newly-diagnosed individuals with COVID-19. It was the highest one-day total since the first local case on March 9.

After leading the country in limiting the spread of the coronavirus, Oregon has experienced three consecutive weeks of surging COVID-19 numbers.

"The number of new infections reported daily are now at the highest levels

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And the winners are...  
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## A heart on the scales

DACA decision is only temporary relief for Keizer woman

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Amemait is salivating.

In ancient Egyptian belief, Amemait is the devourer of souls that fail the weighing of hearts to gain entry to the afterlife. In Egyptian art, she has a hippo's hindquarters, the trunk and mane of a lion and the crocodile's face. It was believed that, upon death, one only gained entry to the afterlife after their heart was weighed against a feather of Ma'at, who embodied truth, balance, order, harmony, morality and justice.

The deceased's heart was placed on one side of a scale and Ma'at's feather on the other. If the scale balanced, the soul proceeded to the Field of Reeds. Amemait ate those with heavier hearts.

Keizerite Itzel Hernandez felt as though she's been dangled over Amemait's crocodilian jaw ever since applying for protection under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, a package of protections for the children of undocumented immigrants brought to the United States

while minors.

"It's a Band Aid," said Hernandez of DACA, put in place by President Barack Obama in 2012. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that the program could continue despite attempts by President Donald Trump to end it. DACA stipulates that children brought to the U.S. under the age of 15 can apply deferred action from deportation and become eligible for work permits and driver's licenses and attend colleges and universities without fear of reprisal. DACA recipients cannot have been convicted of a felony or serious crimes, they cannot receive federal student aid and DACA does not provide a path to citizenship. DACA protections also have to be renewed every two years, which is where the analogy to Egyptian lore emerges. "We

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Keizerite Itzel Hernandez is a recipient of DACA protections, but years of uncertainty are fostering frustration.

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

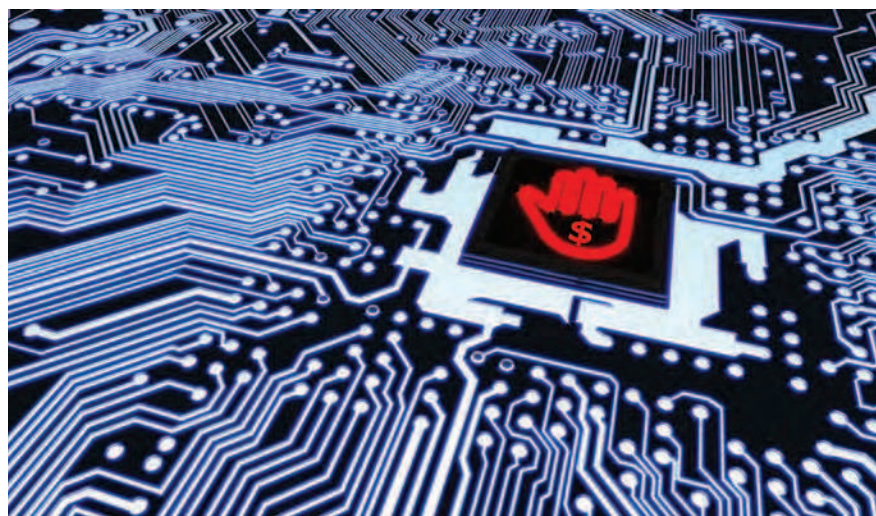


## CYBER THREAT ANALYST: Keizer ransom payment furthers hackers' efforts

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Of late, Brett Callow, a cyber threat analyst, is like a spider sitting on the world wide web waiting for news of hacking strikes like the one that hit Keizer two weeks ago.

Within an hour of *Keizertimes* reporting what had happened, Callow, who works for the malware and ant-virus



File

"Every organization that chooses to pay a ransom is not only incentivizing the criminals, they're also providing them with additional resources ..."

— Brett Callow, cyber threat analyst

software company Emisoft, reached out to inquire whether city employees had recently been returning to work after the pandemic. Emisoft is expecting to see a rise in hacking of public agencies and private companies as workers return to the office, often with computers

loaned out by the agencies they work for and were operating in less secure home environments.

On June 10, hackers put the data on Keizer's city computers put behind an encrypted door, and required a ransom payment of \$48,000 before turning over the numeric key to unlock it.

Not all ransomware works the same way and the latest versions are more sophisticated than the old version that arrived on hacked programs downloaded from the internet, Callow said.

"Networks are initially compromised via email or improperly secured internet-facing servers. At this point, the first-

stage malware performs various checks in order to determine whether it has landed on a potentially valuable target. For example, by checking whether the system is connected to a corporate network. If the system is determined to be potentially valuable, the attack will proceed and the data will eventually be encrypted," Callow said.

Paying ransoms only exacerbates, and accelerates hacker activity, he added.

"Payments are the fuel that drives ransomware," Callow said. "Every organization that chooses to pay a ransom is not only incentivizing the criminals,

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Lots of talk, little action on police, racism in schools

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
*Of the Keizertimes*

With the protests spread across the country regarding police brutality in the wake of George Floyd's death, the Salem-Keizer School Board met virtually on Tuesday, June 23 in a work session that involved a conversation which was planned to be heavily focused on racism and the use of School Resource Officers (SRO) at Salem-Keizer Public Schools (SKPS).

Even though the board has been meeting virtually over the last three months due to COVID-19, this gathering was vastly different than any of the ones that this board has experienced.

More than 180 people signed up for public testimony. While only a small percentage (just under two dozen) were able to share publicly during the one-hour time slot given

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Band fireworks tent moves  
PAGE A3



A fruity addition to food truck scene  
PAGE A4



Let them play?  
PAGE A10



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