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KEIZERTIMES/Lauren Murphy
Keizer's Chicken Shack is now open for business at 3844 River Road N. The Keizer Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, Sept. 1.

ABOVE: Malachi, Keyana, Markey and Monica Toombs snip the ceremonial ribbon with their family.
LEFT: Chicken Shack staff members wait to serve visitors.

Keizer firefighters assist in a historic Cali wildfire fight

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

Wildfires are known to wreak havoc over certain areas of California during the summer months, which is why Keizer Fire District (KFD) is always prepared to provide assistance.

On Wednesday, Aug. 19 KFD sent four firefighters down to assist with the LNU Lightning Complex fires near Napa Valley, CA. Three of the KFD firefighters were operating a brush truck and one of them was an assistant strike team leader working as a part of a Marion County task force.

According to Brian Butler, the division chief of operations with KFD, the district has 18 people on their deployment list to send resources down to California when needed.

"If they need help, we tend to get there pretty quickly," Butler said. "Once we get the call in Keizer, we can be deployed in a couple of hours."

The crew in California is protecting homes and local structures, as well as patrolling for hot spots, in 24-hour shifts every other day.

"The fires are so bad over there. It is 24 hours of stress for those guys," Butler said.

The LNU fire began on the morning of Aug. 17 due to lightning strikes in Napa and Sonoma counties.

As of Tuesday, Sept. 1, the fire had taken over more than



Submitted

In addition to a four-person crew, Keizer Fire District dispatched its brush truck California to help contain the LNU Lightning Complex fire.

375,000 acres of land, destroying 1,288 structures and causing damage to 202 others. More than 3,000 structures are being threatened due to the fire. It is the third largest wildfire documented in California history.

The fire has forced thousands of evacuations and has taken the lives of five people.

Fortunately, the fire is 69% contained, as of Tuesday, Sept. 1, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and some counties have begun the repopulating process.

Despite having four of their employees in Napa Valley, the wildfires have had no effect on

staffing or services at KFD, as the district is reimbursed for the deployed firefighters and overtime hours.

The crew returned to Keizer on Tuesday evening

Just days before sending staff members down south, KFD sent three firefighters to assist with the Columbia River Gorge's Moiser Creek fire. Although the fire burned nearly 1,000 acres and destroyed eight homes, there was no reported injuries or loss of life and the fire was contained in less than a week.

"They were able to help get that under control pretty quickly," Butler said.

State launches 'two weeks ready' campaign

By BROOKLYN FLINT
Of the Keizertimes

If nothing else, the pandemic has taught us to be prepared for anything.

That is why Oregon state officials are encouraging all residents to prepare for and enact a "two weeks ready"

plan. In the case of an earthquake, tsunami, power outage, or any other emergency, many places and roads will be closed. It is recommended that people plan two weeks ahead by stocking up on supplies like food, water, pet supplies, toiletries and more.

In the event of an emergency, it is advised that people prepare with a first aid health kit if first responders are unable to reach you. This kit should include instructions about how to help someone in specific health issues, health documents, a flashlight, tape, bandages and anything else that might be beneficial for your family.

Everyone in your household should know where to find the kit and how to use the materials inside. It is also recommended to keep a kit in your house, at work and in your car.

For family members with

pets, it is a good idea to prepare a kit with food, toys, a carrier crate, medicine and health records. Talk to neighbors about taking care of yours pets if you are out of town and find pet-friendly hotels on your emergency route.

Oregon's Office of Emergency Management encourages families to discuss plans in case of an emergency and answer the following questions: Do you have back-up transportation methods and routes? Who will care for the kids, grandparents and pets if you are unable to get to them for several hours? Who in your neighborhood has medical skills, a generator, a chainsaw, or other important tools or resources? Do you have an out-of-state contact?

Answering these questions and having a prepared plan can save your life and the lives of those around you. In any case, it is better to be safe than to be sorry.

Salt-making in Seaside Sept. 12

A weekend jaunt to the coast in September, when the crowds have dwindled, can be turned into a historical journey when stopping by Lewis and Clark Salt Makers in Seaside.

The annual event is a re-enactment of members of the Lewis and Clark expedition traveling from Fort Clatsop to the ocean to make much-needed salt. Members of the expedition set up a beach camp in what is now Seaside, making salt by boiling seawater for two months.

The Seaside Museum stages the annual reenactment at the west end of U Avenue where it intersects with the Promenade. It will take place 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13. Mandated COVID-19 precautions will be observed including face coverings and social distancing.

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