

Business

Catalyst readies pizzeria on Southeast H Street (Business Buzz)

By Edith Decker of the Daily Courier

Catalyst Pizza Co., operator of two popular food trucks, is going for a brick-and-mortar location, having taken over the former home of Musashi Sushi after it moved down H Street earlier in December.

Catalyst co-owner Zack Thomas said they gutted most of the 2,800-foot location to add a classic pizza oven and other kitchen upgrades, more seating, a new serving counter and even an arcade to help make it "super family friendly."

They have their fingers crossed for opening the location, 314 S.E. H St. in Grants Pass, in about three weeks.

The family moved to Grants Pass in the wake of the Camp Fire that destroyed Paradise, California, and started a food truck in 2019 that quickly became a popular stop. One truck has found a permanent home at Weekend Beer Company, 1863 N.W. Washington Blvd. Another truck is parked next to Rogue Valley Brewing, 123 S.E. K St.

Fear not, Weekend fans. The mobile unit will stay there after the restaurant opens. However, the staff and some of the equipment from the Rogue Valley Brewing truck will be moved to the restaurant and that site discontinued.

"We love Weekend," Thomas said. In fact, because all pick-up orders will be handled at the restaurant rather than the Weekend Beer site, the pressure will be relieved for patrons there, hopefully shortening wait times.

And here's a bonus: They're adding delivery once the pizzeria is up and running.

The menu for the new restaurant will be expanded, with both square Detroit-style pizza and New York-style pizza, plus pasta dishes, sandwiches and chicken.

"Pretty much classic New York-style pizzeria food — only better," Zack said of the menu.

They'd been looking for a location for some time without success, until the old Musashi location came up. Because it's not a new business, they did a "transfer of use" form and the city has helped them get moved over smoothly, he said.

One thing still in the works — a liquor license for wine and beer. Because the other locations handled the alcohol for the food trucks, he's starting from scratch on that one. When they do get a license, it will stick to local brews and wine.

The restaurant will be open six days a week — closed Mondays — to start. Eventually, he hopes to train a manager so he can be open seven days a week and have two days off.

The family continues to thank customers and the community for their help and loyalty, noting it was friends and Catalyst fans who helped build the pizzeria's new serving bar



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

In addition to running their two Catalyst Pizza food trucks, Zack and Anna Thomas are preparing for the grand opening of their new pizzeria located at 314 S.E. H St. in downtown Grants Pass by the end of May. They plan to close their mobile location on Southeast K Street when their brick-and-mortar restaurant opens.



and even rework the plumbing so they can open as soon as possible.

"The community has been awesome," he said.

GROWING TOGETHER. The new family community center, Growing Together, will have a ribbon-cutting and open house on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

The Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce will be on hand for the ceremony at 4:30 p.m. at 310 S.W. H St., Grants Pass, in part of the former downtown Rogue Community College building.

The center, previously featured in the Daily Courier, offers support groups, parenting classes, fun family classes and playgroups. See growingtogethergp.org or call 541-864-0776 for more.

GOODWILL PROJECT. The chamber will start the week with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. Monday at the Southern Oregon Goodwill's new Job Connection Center in Grants Pass.

The event will include refreshments, a raffle and an introduction to the program's services, which allow job seekers to build skills and gain employment quickly.

The center is part of the Goodwill store, 346 N.E. Beacon Drive.

For more information, call 541-772-3300.

JETBOATS ARE BACK. Hellgate Jetboat Excursions begins trips on Monday, although schedules may vary depending on weather and number of clients for the first few weeks of the season. Call 541-479-7204.

RENOVATIONS. Memory Gardens Mortuary celebrated its recent renovations and remodel with an open house Saturday morning. The business is at 1395 Arnold Lane in Medford.

EXPANDING LA CLINICA. La Clinica plans to expand its Acute Care Clinic at 616 Market St. in Medford to meet community demand for same-day care and provide an alternative to hospital emergency departments.

La Clinica announced this week it plans to remodel the existing 2,728-square-foot clinic and construct a new 7,038-square-foot clinic across the driveway from the original building.

The spaces will contain exam rooms, plus a drive-up pharmacy, La Clinica's first X-ray service, a procedure room with ultrasound services, and a lab where test results can be produced quickly.

Two exam rooms will be specially equipped to prevent airborne infections and increase disaster-preparedness capabilities, La Clinica said.

The expansion is expected to open by June 2024.

La Clinica, a nonprofit organization, is in the early stages of a \$4.4 million community fundraising campaign to cover the costs of the project.

MEDFORD RIBBON-CUTTINGS. The Chamber of Medford & Jackson County will officially open two new businesses this week.

On Thursday at 10 a.m. they'll be at Kid to Kid, a locally owned children's resale store, which recently relocated to the Village at Medford Center, 705 Medford Center.

The business doubled its size and offers clothing, toys, shoes and equipment. They are celebrating with a store credit giveaway on Thursday, a free book for every child on Friday, a bag giveaway Saturday and a raffle on Sunday.

Also on Thursday, at 4:30 p.m., the grand opening of McCaw, Lyle American Family Insurance, 4021 Crater Lake Ave., Suite 101A, is scheduled. The company, with 24 years serving the area, has a new office. The ribbon-cutting will be followed by an open house with live music and refreshments.

GNOME HOTEL. The Ashland Hills Hotel & Suites announced it's now home to an extended family of gnomes, which visiting youngsters are invited to find and visit.

The homes are in secret locations around the property, but knowing what tiny doorways to look for, and a map available at the front desk, may help children locate them.

The reward is a chocolate "gnome nickel."

"After visiting Ashland to attend the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the gnomes fell in love with the area and decided to make it their forever home," said the spokesperson for the hotel in a press release.

The hotel is at 2525 Ashland St.

CHARGING UP. The Rogue Regency Inn & Suites in Medford this week announced the installation of four new ChargePoint electric vehicle charging stations on the property.

The stations are available to both hotel guests and the public. All are welcome to the inn's restaurant, sports bar, dog park, salon and spa while charging.

The business is at 2300 Biddle Road.

MARKETING MASTERMIND. The first monthly meeting of Marketing Mastermind, a way to network and share marketing ideas for business owners and employees, is happening Tuesday in Grants Pass at the Taprock Northwest Grill's Evergreen Room, 971 S.E. Sixth St.

Networking is available from 6 p.m. until speaker and table discussions begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by more networking at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is free.

More events are scheduled June 6 and July 25.

The contact for the event is Jerry Hughes. Email him at jerry@artiststudio12.com or call 972-979-2224 for additional information.

Reach reporter Edith Decker at 541-474-3724 or edecker@thedailycourier.com.

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