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AP Headlines

Friday May 18, 2007

NEWS

Child care services in works for Tioga area

By [William Moyer](#)
Press & Sun-Bulletin

OWEGO -- Tioga County Boys and Girls Club along with PlayYard Concepts want to pick up some of the child care services once provided by the defunct Growing Years Children's Center, which closed suddenly in mid-April.

Don Curtis, executive director of the village-based Boys and Girls Club, said his organization is in the process of hiring a staff and submitting paperwork to the state to run a summer day care program at Owego Elementary School, as well as a before- and after-school program at the school.

Owego-Apalachin school district officials also expect PlayYard, a private day care service owned by Christine Benjamin, to be approved to run similar programs at Apalachin Elementary School.

"It's imperative for us to have quality child care in place to begin this summer," O-A Superintendent Bill Russell said.

This would be the Tioga club's first child care program. "We have the resources here in our club and the desire to do the programs," Curtis said. "Other clubs in our area have similar programs."

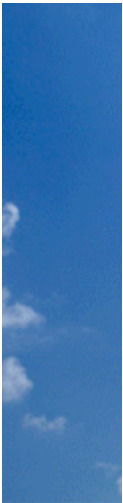
Officials said the Office of Children & Family Services has promised to review the applications as quickly as possible to help working parents who were left scrambling for child care after Growing Years gave only a few days' notice before closing its five Tioga sites, including the two elementary schools.

When it closed due to financial difficulties, Growing Years had 120 children in various programs.

JOB FAIR

Tioga County Boys and Girls Club will hold a Job Fair to take applications for pending child care programs at Owego Elementary School. The fairs are scheduled from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday at the club, 201 Erie St., Owego.

For information and to pre-enroll children, call 687-0690.



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