

Caregiver support group organizing in Salem

Meadow Creek Village, an assisted living community located at 3988 12th Street Cutoff SE in Salem, will be hosting a monthly support group for family members and caregivers of older loved ones. The meetings will take place at the community on the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Complimentary respite care will be available for loved ones during the meetings.

Helping Hands Support

Group was created in response to the weight of responsibility that caregivers experience. Helping Hands meets monthly to give caregivers the opportunity to share stories, ask questions and relax with others who understand what they're going through.

Each month will feature a new topic that's relevant to caregivers' challenges. Often, a local expert from the community will share insightful

presentation and lead discussions on the topic. Family members can call Meadow Creek Village each month to see what the next Helping Hands topic will be. Information on the month's topic will also be available on the community's website and Facebook page.

Helping Hands gives caregivers the chance to find the compassionate support they need to provide the best care for their loved ones. All meetings are free and open to the public. For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Meadow Creek Village Business Office Manager at 503-375-9732 or visit www.MeadowCreekSeniorLiving.com.

Elks give back



Submitted
Rev. Curt McCormack of the Keizer Community Food Bank, Bryanna Duke and Adrienne Christian of Liberty House and Dave Salisbury, exalted leader of the Keizer Elks Lodge.

The Keizer Elks Lodge, through a Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant, recently gave donations to two local non-profits.

The Keizer Community Food Bank received \$1,000.

The food bank relies on donations from individuals, businesses and benevolent organizations. For every dollar donated, \$3 of food can be purchased for the food bank. Liberty House, which pro-

vides free medical assessment and support to children who are victims of abuse and neglect, also received \$1,000 was donated to Adrienne Christian and Bryanna Duke of Liberty House.

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Black student dropout rate spotlighted at SKSB meeting

By **HERB SWETT**
Of the Keizertimes

The dropout problem, especially involving African-American students, took up much of Salem-Keizer School Board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 14.

While it was not an action item, the board heard several comments from the audience, largely calling for the Community School Outreach Coordinator to expand from its focus on English Language learners to become involved with the problems of black students.

"We need to institutionalize support for African-American students," was one of the comments from Phil Decker of Salem, principal of Four Corners Elementary School.

Benny Williams of Salem,

president of the Salem-Keizer branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the district was making progress "but at a snail's pace." He observed that dropouts occur because students feel disengaged.

Will Collins of Salem, a classified employee and former student of the district, who has a minority background, said the disengagement led to his absences and suspension.

On a related matter, several representatives of the Salem-Keizer Education Association spoke of the SKEA's affirmation that it is an inclusive union whose objective is to protect all students' rights. One of them noted that Oregon leads the United States in per capita hate incidents.

In other business, the board approved several grants, the largest of which was \$2,408,849 from the Oregon Department of Education to ensure that students in schools with high percentages of poverty meet the challenging state academic standards.

Other grants from ODE are \$21,218 for trainings and activities involving students who have disabilities, \$20,700 for other student disability matters, and \$1,000 for career and technical student organizations involving McNary High School and Grant Community School. The remaining grants are \$15,000 from the Northwest Health Foundation Fund for physical activity programs before, during, and after school, for Keizer Elementary School and seven other schools; and \$1,785 to provide supplies for the 2017 Eagle Feather Graduation Celebration.

Board members praised the work of Mary Paulson, who is resigning as chief of staff of the district to become deputy executive director of the Oregon School Boards Association. Her successor is Linda Myers of Keizer, whose title will be director of strategic initiatives.

Myers comes from the Silver Falls School District, where she was director of curriculum and instruction for 10 years. In the preceding 10 years, she taught in the Salem-Keizer district.

Personnel actions approved at the meeting involved three people in the McNary attendance area. Hired as temporary part-time teachers were Sherrin Landis at Claggett Creek Middle School and Tracy Loumena at Whiteaker Middle School. Also at Claggett Creek, Melissa Koenig was hired as a first-year probation full-time teacher.

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Salem-Keizer Lemonade Day May 20, 2017

Kick-off: March 9
Salem Convention Center

Contact: info@skeducationfoundation.org
Registration: salemkeizer.lemonadeday.org
Updates: facebook.com/lemonadedaysalemkeizer



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