

KeizerCommunity

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Meals on Wheels needs drivers



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

“Todd’s an angel. You’ve probably noticed his halo,” Adam Wiktorek, a Meals on Wheels driver, says about Todd Putnam, another volunteer, while the two men wait for food to arrive at the Keizer Elks Lodge.

Both Wiktorek and Putnam have been delivering food to people in Keizer through Meals on Wheels for so long that they no longer count the years.

Putnam’s mom used to rely on Meals on Wheels volunteers to get fed.

“Because someone was delivering meals to her I thought I’d get involved,” Putnam said. “That’s how I started. That’s probably about

Meals on Wheels drivers meet Monday through Friday at the Keizer Elks Lodge at 10:30 a.m. to deliver food to people in need.

15 years ago, I’m guessing. Now that we’re retired, it gets us out of the house and gives us something to do. It keeps us busy.”

Wiktorek saw volunteers deliver meals to his neighbors back in the 1990s when one day he thought he’d see what the program was all about. He filled out an application

to become a driver, thinking he would volunteer for about a month.

“The thing is they never fire anybody,” Wiktorek joked. “I think we all love it. I look forward to it.”

Along with serving meals, volunteers are also there for people when they need them most.

Wiktorek was delivering food to a retired postal worker in Keizer who’d had a stroke when he found the man on the ground in the garage. He’d been laying there all morning. Wiktorek called 911, saving the man’s life.

“It’s a great honor to do this and help our people,” Wiktorek said.

Volunteers gather Monday

through Friday beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Keizer Elks Lodge to pick up food for their routes. On a typical day, 70 meals are delivered through seven routes.

All of the cooking is done at Center 50 plus in Salem.

Steve Morton, the kitchen director, has a team of 10 people, half of which are chefs.

“We’re always looking for

drivers,” Morton said. “We’re coming out of probably our driest recruiting time of year.”

To volunteer with Meals on Wheels, call 503-364-2856, visit marionpolkfoodshare.org/programs/meals-on-wheels/driver or pick up an application at the Keizer Elks Lodge.

Elks hosting Trunk or Treat

Keizer Elks Lodge is hosting a Halloween event with Trunk and Treats and a haunted house on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Trunk or Treats is free but entry to the haunted house is canned food or a cash donation.

The haunted house is open

to all ages is non-contact.

All donations gathered during the haunted house will go towards the Christmas Charities program.

Few boundary changes expected at Keizer schools

A Boundary Review Task Force has been formed and has started to review boundaries in all Salem-Keizer high school feeder systems.

Boundary adjustments are needed to fully utilize the ad-

ditional capacity being built in the 2018 bond program and to balance enrollments across the district.

All school boundaries are being reviewed in the process, however not all boundaries will be adjusted.

Comparatively few changes are expected for the McNary and West Salem High School feeder systems, with more changes expected for the McKay, North Salem, South Salem and Sprague feeder systems.

The Task Force is working to prepare a recommendation for boundary adjustments that will be presented to the Superintendent at the Dec. 11

School Board meeting.

The Task Force will hold Boundary Open House events to receive feedback from the community on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at Judson Middle School, Waldo Middle School and CTEC. from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

Additional opportunities to share feedback on boundary adjustments will be announced soon.

For more information on the Boundary Review Task Force or the Boundary Open House events, please visit the boundary adjustment page on the district website, <https://salkeiz.k12.or.us>.

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