

Keizer responds to COVID-19



Keizer church helps bring semi load of food to MPFS

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizerimes

Marion Polk Food Share (MPFS) is used to getting food donations from the community, they don't typically arrive by the truckload.

However, on Tuesday, March 31, the Keizer Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made it happen. The effort also involved the Salem and Monmouth Stakes of the church and a surplus of food from the Salt Lake City headquarters of the global faith.

"This is a very large community donation," said Rick Gaupo, executive director of MPFS. "When you're talking about non-industry partners, you're usually talking in barrels, not truckloads. And it couldn't arrive at a better time."

Keizer City Councilor Dan Kohler was one of the spearheads in the effort to bring the food to Marion County. He also serves as public affairs director for the Keizer Stake of the church.

"The local congregations (throughout the nation) have donated each month for years towards church-wide welfare needs. The surplus reserves



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are from there and donations that went above and beyond tithing," Kohler said.

Food storage is a guiding principle for members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It's part of making individual families and the church as a whole self-sufficient. Over the years, food storage and processing –

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Mike Braegger hauled \$40,000 of food from Salt Lake City to Marion County.



Submitted
Maddie, Summer and Brysen Donily show off some of the masks they've been making during the past several weeks.

Sewing machines fire up to make masks

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizerimes

Summer Donily's sewing machine was already warmed up to respond to the need for face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I do a lot of volunteer sewing. I started with Randall's Children's Hospital, I made pillow cases and quilts for them, I sew for the American Cancer Society and Be Bold Street Ministries," Donily said.

Donily was one of dozens, if not hundreds, who sharpened their needles to make masks for first responders, family members, friends and complete strangers. Salem Health was one agency that issued a call for help and planned to distribute enough materials for 10,000 masks over a two-day period. The organizers handed them all out within hours on the first day.

Donily started making masks for the outreach personnel at Be Bold using material she had at home.

Sharon Belleque, another Keizer stitcher, dove into the effort about two weeks ago and has made 200 masks since she started.

She watched a YouTube video that instructed viewers on the process.

"I heard about the need and I do a lot of sewing, so I just decided to give it a try," Belleque said. Belleque started making masks for her family members out of a concern for her elderly mother, but then offered to make them for others through Keizer-centric Facebook communities.

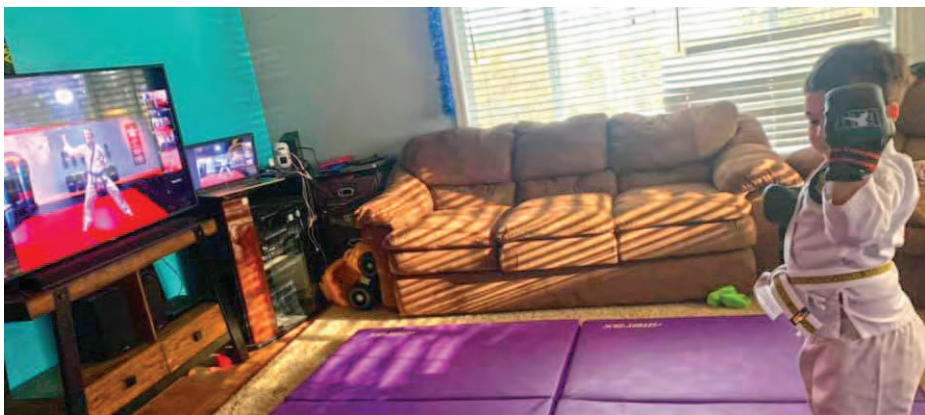
Neither woman had to reach far for fabric, both had plenty of reserves at home. Donily told staff

"That would be the best outcome for this whole thing, to regain some sort of sense of communal responsibility."

— Summer Donily

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Martial arts studio goes online



Submitted
Keizer ATA Martial Arts is taking its lessons online and offering some free instruction.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizerimes

The owner of a Keizer ATA Martial Arts is changing the way the studio does business during the COVID-19 pandemic, and opening up some classes to anyone who wants to participate online.

Carson Clews, owner of the dojo since 2016, said he's turning what was once an in-person, group activity into an online experience he wants to share with the wider community.

"The thing about martial arts is that it's a progression," Clews said. "All the students – no matter their age – want to move up to the next belt, but it means they need feedback that helps them get there."

Clews and his fellow instructors began

offering classes via Zoom.us, a video conferencing site, shortly after bans on large groups were put in place. Students would tune in and perform skills while Clews watched and provided guidance.

"I was worried that it wouldn't be the same for me or the students, but we started getting really good feedback from our families," he said. "The students are still developing skill competence even though we had to change the class space."

While students can't necessarily work with a heavy punching bag or spar with other students, Clews guides them through the same routines.

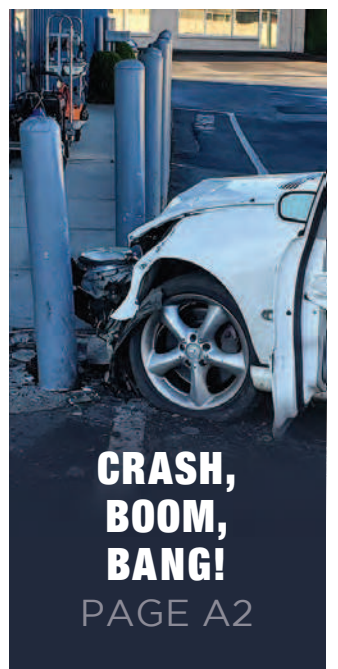
Now, those interested in sampling the studios lessons can participate for

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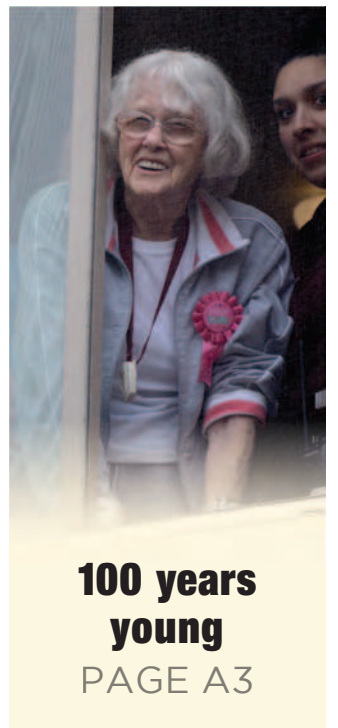
Seniors still hope for spring season

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CRASH, BOOM, BANG!

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100 years young

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Keizer mom connects Down syndrome community

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