

KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

An Eagle has landed

The members of the Peggy & Jerry Moore Community Garden will be sitting in style thanks to an Eagle Scout project by Palmer Snapp.

Snapp and a team of assistants restored a wrought iron bench and two matching chairs then deviled them to the garden Tuesday, June 30.

With the project complete, Snapp is eligible for promotion to Eagle Scout as part of the Boy Scouts of America.

The garden is located in Chalmers Jones Park.
KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald



Pandemic sidelined flags on 4th

By LAUREN MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Several Keizer residents took to Facebook this weekend to announce their disapproval of the lack of flags displayed by the city for on the Fourth of July.

"I was driving River Road this morning and noted the absence of our flags on this Independence Day. This was very disturbing and saddening, especially on this day," one resident commented in a local Keizer Facebook group. It was brought to the attention of city councilor Elizabeth Smith, who admitted she did not know what happened with the flags.

"Thank you for asking about this. I apologize for not knowing the answer immediately, but I did find out," Smith said in the comments of the original post. "Due to Covid related issues- The [Keizer Fire District] Explorers, who usually do this for our community, were unable to put them up..."

Smith continued to say that it was unfortunate that it fell through the cracks and the city would work to prevent future oversights from happening again. She later commented that she is creating a list of volunteers to serve as a back up plan in case The Explorers are unable to do it again. People interested in volunteering should email their contact information to SmithE@Keizer.org.

Mayor Cathy Clark also commented on the post and said, "...When we have reliable groups who do this year after year, it does not occur to us that it won't happen until it doesn't..."

The flags are usually put up by The Explorers, who are part of the Keizer Fire Department.

They are 14- to 18-years-olds who are exploring a what a career with the fire department would look like.

"With COVID-19 this year, they have not been meeting to protect them from the higher chance of exposure here at the fire station," said Deputy Fire Marshal Anne-Marie Storms in a statement to the Keizertimes. "The job was passed to a volunteer firefighter who is now in quarantine due to a COVID-19 exposure along with six career firefighters. This staffing shortage meant we were scrambling to ensure our emergency calls were being handled, and we overlooked the flags going up."

Storms said Keizer Fire District was made aware of the flags not being placed but were busy responding to the 29 emergency calls they received that day.

"When we overlooked putting the flags up, there was no political motive or an-

"There was no political motive or anti-American or government stance. We are just human and overlooked the flags."

— Ann-Marie Storms
KFD spokesperson

ti-American or government stance. We are just human and overlooked the flags," Storms said in the statement.

In the city council meeting on Monday, July 6, Smith apologized to the community for the oversight, "That was just a break down in communication ... I did see a lot of people were very upset about that so I personally wanted to apologize for that and let you know that we'll do better."

Whiteaker welcomes new principal

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

After working at Houck Middle School for nearly a decade, Suzanne Leonard will be taking over as the new principal at Whiteaker Middle School for the 2020-21 school year.

Leonard will be taking the place of Julia DeWitt, who has been the principal at Whiteaker since 2014 — DeWitt is trading places with Leonard and will now take on the same role at Houck.

"I am extremely excited to be at Whiteaker and to be around a staff that is so committed to serving the school and the community," Leonard said.

Despite it being a tumultuous time to be an administrator due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Leonard is entering the Whiteaker community at a unique time when part of the school is getting a structural makeover.

Whiteaker's bond construction started earlier this summer and features renovations to the gym floor and a science classroom, as well as safety improvements, including a secure front entrance, office renovations and a secured vestibule.

However, the school is also keeping parts of the original gym for nostalgic purposes.

"I feel like the work being done will best utilize the space that we have and allow us to be more efficient and effective," Leonard said. "But we want to preserve the memories of the old gym and keep the nostalgia alive for the Keizer community."

When Leonard first started at Houck in 2012, she was an instructional math coach, work-



Suzanne Leonard

ing through different strategies with students and teachers for desired outcomes.

However, after two years, Leonard realized that she wanted her impact on students to go further.

"I wanted to strive to reach all kids with contact and engagement. That's what motivated me to get into administration," Leonard said.

In 2014, Leonard was named the assistant principal at Houck. Three years later, she was promoted to her first head principal position.

Leonard describes herself as a detail-oriented thinker that is big on social-emotional learning and serving the individual needs of students. Her math background also has a heavy influence in how she views

education. But Leonard says her biggest asset as a principal is how she is able to develop relationships with her students and staff.

"I feel like one of my greatest strengths is being highly relational. That will be at the forefront of this transition," Leonard said.

Having multi-tiered support systems in place is another key priority for Leonard. While she doesn't have any immediate large-scale plans, Leonard will be looking for multitudes of ways to improve the school.

"My job is to come in, see what we have in place and look to strengthen it," Leonard said. "It will involve a lot of listening."

Leonard has lived in Salem for the majority of her life — graduating from South Salem High School in 1981 — so branching out into Keizer and serving the community is one of the things she's most looking forward to about this school year.

"I have lived in Salem for a long time, so I'm looking forward to spread my roots and become a part of the Keizer community," Leonard said "I'm hoping to join the Keizer Rotary or any other public service."

sudoku

		8		3	5			
9		5	4					
	7	4	5			1	3	
8			4	2		3		5
	9		8		1		4	
2		3		7	5			8
	6	1			9	5	2	
				5		7		1
	5		6			9		

Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

COVID-19 has created a greater need for donations to the Keizer Community Food Bank. Please consider donating food or financial help.

PRE-PLANNING YOUR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS IS A GIFT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE YOUR LOVED ONES.

CALL TODAY!

RESTLAWN MEMORY GARDENS & RESTLAWN FUNERAL HOME
Salem, OR 97304
503-585 1373
www.restlawnfh.com

FARNSTROM MORTUARY
Independence, OR 97351
503-838-1414
www.farnstrommortuary.com

KEIZER FUNERAL CHAPEL
Keizer, OR 97303
503-393-7037
www.keizerchapel.com

Imagine The Difference You Can Make

DONATE YOUR CAR

1-844-533-9173

FREE TOWING
TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Help Prevent Blindness
Get A Vision Screening Annually

Heritage for the Blind

Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!!

Introducing our Turnkey Shopping Experience

CHOOSE | RELAX | ENJOY

Choose Your Hearth or Outdoor Product
Relax While We Handle All of the Details
Enjoy the Warmth and Beauty!

HEAT & GLO
No one builds a better fire.

Pictured: The Phoenix Trueview Gas Fireplace with Stafford Interior Panels

Trade Ally of **EnergyTrust of Oregon**

As an Energy Trust of Oregon trade ally, we can help you access cash incentives to make it easier to improve your home's energy efficiency.

Home FIRE STOVE
GRILL CITY

1695 Market St NE,
Salem, OR 97301
503-364-6339
www.homefirestove.com

CCB# 48630

WE TAKE PRIDE

in being staffed better than any other senior living community

Come See the Finest in Senior Living
CALL (503) 390-1300

The **Village at Keizer Ridge**
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

1165 McGee Ct NE • Keizer, OR • VillageAtKeizerRidge.com