

# Keizer shelterless count stunningly low

Keizer officials contacted just 19 shelterless people during its portion of the annual point-in-time count.

Officers from the Keizer Police Department (KPD) Community Response Unit (CRU) and Code Officer Ben Crosby hit the streets alongside hundreds of other volunteers to conduct the count on Jan. 27.

"Of the seven people contacted this year, our officers know at least four of them by name and frequently have conversations with them. It is noteworthy to mention it is not by luck that Keizer does not have our own 'tent city.' CRU and Crosby routinely check for homeless camps. When a camp is located, services are offered, and then

they are encouraged to move along" said a Keizer police official in a weekly update sent out by the city on Jan. 29. "We have found most homeless people wish to be left alone, so frequent contacts seem to get voluntary compliance in moving out of Keizer."

More than 90% of those contacted turn down assistive services according to KPD.

# New website designed to bolster youth mental health

Suicide is the leading cause of death in Oregon for ages 10-24. iRespect&Protect, a collaborative effort by Marion and Polk counties, hopes to change this by offering free tools, resources, and toolkits for youth, teens, parents, youth serving organizations, and schools.

Visit the website at [www.irespectandprotect.com](http://www.irespectandprotect.com).

"This project will continue to grow," said Kelley

Parosa, Prevention Director of Liberty House. "We are encouraged by the amount of time, feedback, and support we have received for this campaign from its inception in 2018, especially by the youth in our community. This is a community campaign, but this is a youth-led campaign as well." iRespect&Protect is a community effort facilitated by Liberty House, the child abuse assessment center serving Marion and Polk counties.

Through iRespect&Protect's website individuals, families, and organizations can educate themselves about the influence of screen-time on their lives, as well as find free tools including digital media contracts and interactive conversation starters. The website also provides contact information for crisis intervention, crisis prevention, and ongoing support for a variety of needs teens and parents of youth may need including: online cruelty, sexting, sex-

ortion, anxiety and depression, and suicidal ideation.

iRespect&Protect's kick-off campaign includes bus and billboard ads and partnerships with local coffee cafes to raise awareness of the influence of device and social media use on mental health and self-esteem, particularly on teens. The iRespect&Protect website and programs foster positive self-worth, promote healthy online choices, and encourage safe relationships in the digital age.

iRespect&Protect will launch its website, thanks to ongoing support and input from teens, parents, medical and mental health professionals, educators, law enforcement, youth-serving organizations and other community members. Support has continued to increase since 2018 when need and vision for iRespect&Protect was created through collaborative focus groups held through Marion and Polk counties.

# KAA March show is watercolors

Keizer Art Association's virtual March exhibit is the Watercolor Show. The juried show will be available at KAA's website only from Feb. 25 to March 30. Entries will be accepted through Feb. 24.

There are two categories in the show: 2D and youth art (ages 4 to 14). All entries must be original to the artist. Each artist may submit up to four entries. Entries for this virtual show must be photographed without a mat, frame or glass.

First, second and third place awards will be presented, along with Best in Show. Winners will be announced on [keizerarts.com](http://keizerarts.com) on Saturday, Feb. 27.

# NEWS TIPS?

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## around Oregon

### 2020 DEATHS OUTNUMBER BIRTHS

In 2020, deaths appear to have outnumbered births in Oregon for the first time on record.

While earlier trends suggested the Beaver State would hit the milestone in the near future, COVID-19 was the hit no one saw coming. The were roughly 2,000 more deaths than births in the state last year, according to Josh Lehner of the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.

The birth-death rate could return to pre-pandemic projections, but the speed at which that will happen remains uncertain.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, 1,649 Oregonians died for reasons directly related to COVID-19, about 4.1% of the nearly 40,000 deaths last year. *Source: Therese Bottomly/The Oregonian*

### HUNGER DOUBLED IN LAST 12 MONTHS

Supplemental food boxes have flown off trucks and shelves in Keizer and throughout the state last year.

"It's the worst rate of hunger we have seen in a century," said Oregon Food Bank (OFB) CEO Susannah Morgan.

The OFB is also advocating for legislation to help ease the hunger rate in Oregon. Morgan said the pandemic has made it harder for a lot of Oregonians to pay rent and stay

in their homes.

OFB is pushing for an extension of the foreclosure and rent moratoriums, and more funding to address emergency housing and homelessness.

"We know hunger is a function of all the things a family needs to afford," Morgan said. "Rent or food? If we can help ensure people can stay in their homes and are also able to meet their rent, they will be more food secure."

To donate to the Keizer Community Food Bank, visit [bit.ly/3p4Nq1Y](http://bit.ly/3p4Nq1Y).

Assistance to families in need should register for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. Apply for SNAP benefits at [oregonhunger.org](http://oregonhunger.org). *Source: Greg Retsinas/KGW TV*

### FAIRGROUNDS SHELTER FILLS QUICKLY

It took only four days for a new temporary shelter at the Pavilion in the Oregon State Fairgrounds to fill to capacity.

On Feb. 1, the City of Sa-

lem, Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center, Mid-Wilamette Valley Community Action Agency, Church at the Park opened the shelter with 100 spaces for socially-distanced tents on the floor of the building at the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center.

Ongoing donations are needed for shelter guests including socks, blankets, towels, winter gear, adult-sized unused underwear, African American hair care products, pet food and pet supplies, backpacks, totes, and reusable bags. All donations should be delivered to the Church @ the Park Donation Center 3104 Turner Road S.E. in Salem., Donation drop off hours are from 12 p.m.- 6 p.m. daily.

Local food vendors and restaurants who would like to get involved in meal preparation or donations can complete a contact form on the Church @ the Park website, [www.church-at-the-park.org](http://www.church-at-the-park.org). For more information, including how community members can get involved in expanding affordable housing programs in Salem or volunteer in support of homelessness, visit the City of Salem website or email [info@cityofsalem.net](mailto:info@cityofsalem.net). *Source: Press release*

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## crossword

**Shall We Dance?**

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61					62				63			

**CREATORS NEWS SERVICE** By Charles Preston

**ACROSS**

1 Long-tailed parrot  
6 Guinness  
10 Sacred bird of Egypt  
14 Skylighted lobbies  
15 Mother of Apollo  
16 Open to discussion  
17 Dance craze of the Twenties  
19 Italian family of art patrons  
20 Currently in vogue  
21 Turkey or fox follower  
22 Mexican sauces  
24 Chicago-to-Norfolk dir.  
25 Change channels  
26 F. Scott Fitzgerald's wife  
27 Torme or Brooks  
28 Dance with castanet accompaniment  
31 Spanish appetizers  
34 Slow: mus.  
35 Like Methuselah  
36 Stratford's stream  
37 Some wordsmiths  
38 *Metamorphoses* author  
39 Mountain pass  
40 Miss prim-and-proper  
41 Snatches  
42 Some ballroom dances

44 Oberon's spouse  
45 English hymnologist  
46 Accelerate  
47 Electrical unit  
50 Latin American quick-step  
52 Italian aloha  
53 NT book  
54 Legatee  
55 Italian whirl  
58 Abate  
59 Black  
60 *Me Rough*  
61 Interlaced design  
62 Religious group  
63 Admittance

**DOWN**

1 Papier       
2 Mountain in northeast Greece  
3 Junkyard car  
4 Broadcast  
5 Viennese dances  
6 American journalist  
7 Riga native  
8 WWII zone  
9 Acquiesces  
10 Former first lady of the Philippines  
11 Brazilian dance

12 Greek letter  
13 Theresa and Bernadette: abbr.  
18 Of an epoch  
23 Actor Ray  
26 One of the Ionian Islands  
27 Friday, e.g.  
28 Nurtures  
29 At no loss for words  
30 Ends' occasional companion  
31 Diplomacy  
32 Acknowledge  
33 Chopin opus  
34 Eye piece  
37 Church dignitaries  
38 Moon, e.g.  
40 Ancient Egyptian deity  
41 Old French dance  
43 Arcane  
44 Average  
46 Cheerful  
47 Shoelace tip  
48 Cheekbone  
49 Freshwater fish  
50 Culinary maven  
51 Take in acoustically  
52 Tropical reptile, for short  
56 The "honest" one  
57 Sea eagle