



2021 Keizer Distinguished Young Woman co-title holders (from left) Leilani Morris, Esther Hudkins and Nicole Russell. Photo by LYNDON ZAITZ of Keizertimes

Auction will help rebuild in devastated Santiam Canyon

The Stayton Rotary and The Heart of the Canyon Committee will host The Heart of the Canyon Auction and Benefit in Stayton on April 10, raising funds to rebuild fire stricken communities throughout the Santiam Canyon and badly hit, Detroit.

Sixty percent of proceeds benefit Santiam Canyon Wildfire Recovery Fund and 40% of the proceeds will benefit the Detroit Lake Foundation

The auction will include fine dining, cocktails, entertainment and a live auction of items listed on their website. The evening will begin with a festive happy hour featuring hors d'oeuvres, drinks

and live music by Once a Month Band and the opportunity to preview and purchase raffle tickets for the various displayed raffle packages.

The evening will close with live music by Never2Late and Rock n Roll Cowboys. This event will follow all of the current safety guidelines regarding COVID-19. Tables will be spaced out and guests will be required to wear face coverings. Hand sanitation stations will be available throughout the facility.

For more information, to buy tickets, become a sponsor or to donate, go to www.theheartofthecanyon.com.



Scholarship program won't slow for COVID

BY LYNDON ZAITZ
Of the Keizertimes

Esther Hudkins, Leilani Morris and Nicole Russell did not let the COVID pandemic mess up their plans to vie for the title of Keizer's 2021 Distinguished Young Woman. The scholarship program was held as scheduled last May, albeit differently than in years past.

Last year's program was conducted virtually, from interviews with judges to candidates expressing their talents via video submissions.

The 2022 Distinguished Young Woman program will go forward in the same vein. Candidates are being recruited and have until March 31 to finalize their applications.

All three of last year's co-title holders say it was a great experience for them and they have grown because of the program.

"It's still a very viable program," said Hudkins. "It helps girls become stronger in themselves and their core values. I would most definitely recommend this program."

"Juniors should join this program," agreed Morris. "I know I've grown a lot from meeting these wonderful women. And the chance to put myself out there. It's cool to see young women have a hand in their community."

"It's a great way to improve yourself," echoed Nicole, whose sister, Elizabeth Russell, was one of Keizer's Distinguished Young Women in 2017.

"(The program) helps build skills, communication skills and public speaking and self expression," she continued.

Talent is one of the five areas of judging in the program. Though many feel they don't have a viable talent, all three of last year's winners say that's is not true. They all agree that everyone has a talent, it is just a matter of identifying it. Last year Hudkins did an Irish dance, Leilani performed a Hawaiian dance and Nicole played piano.

All three young women said the main thing they got out of the program was stronger self-confidence.

Each of them were awarded \$1,000 scholarships from last year's program. Hundreds of millions of scholarship dollars have been award in the program's 63 years.

All three of the 2021 titleholders have or will graduate from McNary High School and have college plans: Hudkins to OSU/Cascade, Morris plans to attend OSU if possible, she has already enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Nicole will join her sister, Elizabeth, at BYU/Prov.

Originally called Junior Miss, Keizer's first program was 1974.

Though this year's program will be virtual once again, organizers are confident that Keizer's 2023 Distinguished Young Woman program will again be a live event at McNary High School.

If interested in participating in the program or volunteering, contact Mary Bauer Opra at 503-510-7483.

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April is National Volunteer Month and the perfect opportunity to recognize the significance and importance of our volunteers. We honor their gifts of time and talents so generously given to the library. Our community library is a 100% volunteer organization and without them the library would not exist.

If you like to help others, find purpose, and connect with your community, contact us to learn ways you can get involved and make a difference. We are looking forward to opening our doors in the future and are currently recruiting volunteers for a few key positions:



Social Media. Volunteer updates our website and posts regularly to the library's social media. If you are familiar with WordPress and social media, you can volunteer virtually to connect the library with the wider Keizer community.

Circulation Desk. Volunteer greets library visitors with a positive and welcoming attitude, offers assistance and promotes library activities and events. Performs a variety of duties related to the circulation of library materials, including checking books in and out, and processing patron applications.

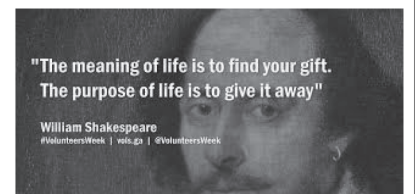
Volunteer Coordinator to recruit, schedule and train fellow volunteers covering the circulation desk. If you love working with people, you will engage with a team of dedicated, diverse, and delightful fellow volunteers.

Job descriptions and applications for these positions can be found on our website at www.keizerlibrary.org.

Engage Your Mind

Freedom Libraries: The Untold Story of Libraries for African Americans in the South by Mike Selby describes the challenge of libraries during the fight for civil rights. Libraries were supposed to be desegregated, but there were no cards given to African Americans, no books for them to read, and no furniture for them to use. At the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, over eighty parallel libraries appeared in the Deep South, staffed by civil rights voter registration workers who took on the struggle for the right to read. While the grassroots nature of the libraries meant they varied in size and quality, all of them created the first encounter many African Americans had with a library. Terror, bombings, and eventually murder would be visited on the Freedom Libraries—with volunteers giving up their lives so others could read a library book.

Happy Birthday Will! The exact date of Shakespeare's birth is not recorded, but it is most often celebrated around the world on April 23rd. His writings continue to be respected and give guidance and entertainment for today's world.



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