

Around Oregon

Duncan honored

On March 18, Rich Duncan, owner of Rich Duncan Construction and a former Keizerite, was recognized at the Salem Leadership Impact Hour. The virtual event was hosted by the Santiam River District (representing the Salem area of Cascade Pacific Council, Boy Scouts of America).

In 2020, Oregon suffered several devastating wildfires including the Santiam Canyon. Duncan, along with a coalition of leaders formed the Santiam Rebuild Coalition. Over 90 contractors pledged to provide labor and materials. Duncan accepted the award on behalf of the entire team of volunteers and contractors who are helping rebuild Detroit.

New pastor at Westminster

Westminster Presbyterian Church's new pastor, Rev. Dr. Kelly Wadsworth, preached her first sermon on Sunday, March 14.

The Salem-based church maintains a close relationship with Keizer's John Knox Presbyterian Church.

Westminster's 10-member Pastor Nominating Committee, who ranged in age from 16 to seniors, considered 97 potential candidates from 30 U.S. states and three continents. That search committee nominated Wadsworth with unanimous consensus. At a meeting conducted over Zoom, church members then voted unanimously to call her as Westminster's new pastor.

"After a decade of service in the Seattle area, I am thrilled to join the Salem community and the great state of Oregon," Wadsworth said. "Westminster Presbyterian Church is an energetic

congregation engaged with the questions of our day and I am honored to serve as their next pastor. As a faith community, Westminster is committed to the ongoing well-being of local families, our neighbors and the city of Salem."

The traditional and contemporary worship services on Sunday mornings are being conducted on Youtube, but the church leadership is working toward resuming in-person worship soon.

SNAP benefits expanded

Oregon has been approved to issue Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotments for the month of March 2021. These emergency allotments were available on March 11 for current SNAP recipients and March 31 for new recipients after March 11.

Emergency allotments raise each household's regularly monthly SNAP allotment to the maximum allowable amount based on household size. Per the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), SNAP households already receiving the maximum allowable allotment based on household size are not eligible to receive the emergency allotment.

More information about emergency allotments is available at: tinyurl.com/rhut884k

Keizer man churns out desks for distance learning

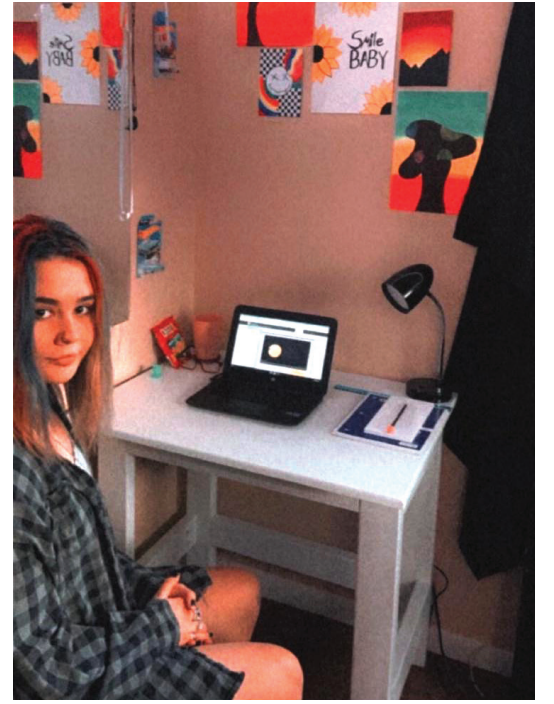
By LYNDON ZAITZ
Of the Keizertimes

When COVID-19 closed schools in 2020 students switched to distance learning. Last fall, the Keizer Community Foundation saw the need to help make at-home instruction easier, especially for those students who had no place of their own to do their studies.

Audrey Butler, president of the foundation, read a news article about Woodworking With a Purpose in several other states, which saw a need and began to make desks to donate. Butler knew this was a project that was needed for local students.

Butler recruited Fernando Lopez, a community volunteer who serves on the board of the foundation, to help with the desk project. He more than helped, he built the desks, getting permission from Woodworking With a Purpose to use their design. So far, 25 desks have been constructed and delivered to Claggett Creek Middle School, Cummings Elementary and McNary High School. Counselors and teachers at each school made the decision on which students would receive a desk.

Though school is re-opening, Butler said kids still need a place to do homework. "We expect students will still need a designated area at home to get work



Dymond Sullivan with a desk for distance learning provided by Fernando Lopez and the Keizer Community Foundation. Submitted photo

done," Butler said.

Each desk is made from 2-by-4s and plywood in an hour and half; it costs \$30 to make one desk.

Donations were solicited from businesses and the community to initially fund the project. Donations are still accepted for the project and can be made at keizercommunityfoundation.com or its Facebook page.



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