

From household items to custom furniture Nighthawk offers edge up



By **ERIC A. HOWALD**
Of the *Keizertimes*

Computer programming just wasn't cutting it for Miles Christy. So, he turned to woodworking.

"When I was younger, my grandfather was a carpenter and I followed him and my dad around everywhere when they were working around the house. My interest in woodworking grew out of that," said Christy, owner of Nighthawk Woodworking. "A few years ago, some friends started asking me if I could make some items for them and the business grew out of that."

He launched the business as a full-time endeavor in 2019 and runs it out of his home in south Keizer. Prospective customers can view his handiwork at www.facebook.com/nighthawk.woodworking or at www.etsy.com/shop/NighthawkWoodworking. He's also a drop-in vendor at Salem Public Market when spaces become available, he posts those notifications to the business Facebook page.

"Because of the pandemic, I've been working on a lot of smaller projects such as gift boxes and cutting boards," Christy said. Key racks, which now pull double duty for face masks, are another popular item. "It's fun to be able to knock out the smaller projects, but my real passion is in custom furniture."

Christy takes on custom furniture projects ranging from smaller cabinets and bookshelves to headboards and coffee tables that are designed-to-suit.

"People can go to a furniture store to find something they like but it isn't exactly the right size. My goal is to help them get the look they want that also fits exactly where they want it," he said. "If somebody wants arts and crafts, I can do that. If they want something more modern with a live edge on hairpin legs, I can do those, too."

Epoxy and resin work are the only thing he tries to avoid.

"I consult with customers and come up



Miles Christy runs Nighthawk Woodworking out of his home in south Keizer. BELOW: Some of the smaller items Christy creates when between custom furniture orders.

Photo by ERIC A. HOWALD of Keizertimes

with a design before taking any money because I want to make sure they'll be happy with the results," Christy said. Conversations about custom projects can be started at either the Facebook or Etsy pages.

Even if he and the customer can't find a way forward, he files the design in hope a future customer identifies



it as the piece of their dreams.

"My main goal is just to provide that custom furniture at a more affordable price. For me, the joy is in having something I can see and hold in my hands at the end of the day,"

Christy said. "It's a long way from changing a couple of lines of code each day."

VOLUNTEER of the Week

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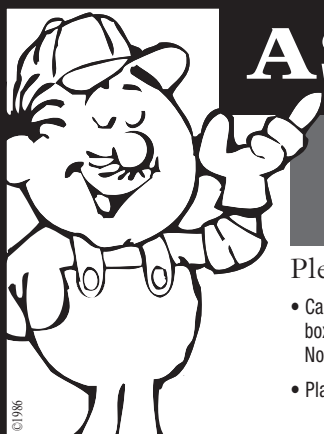
BOB BUSCH

Where and how do you volunteer?

"I currently volunteer in numerous places but primarily as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Marion County where I advocate for children in the foster care system here is Marion County in court. I also volunteer with other agencies in Keizer (chair the Keizer Points of Interest Committee, Keizer Heritage Museum Board of Directors, Keizer Homegrown Theatre Board of Directors, rep to Keizer Chamber, Claggett Creek Watershed Council Board of Directors, Keizer Church of Christ - various roles, and other community activities). If I am not able to help assist someone or an agency physically then I will look into helping them out financially. I used to be a volunteer Keizer Fire District firefighter/EMTB and used to chair the Red Cross blood drives that were held there."

How would you get others to volunteer in their community?

"When an agency or someone has a need and posts something about it on Facebook, I will share their post and, if I have been a part of it before, I will tell people that I am open to answering questions they may have about time commitments, duties involved, etc. I have even heard back from someone who said in an interview for a volunteer position that she knew me and figured if I could do it, she could do it. I will also make announcements at Chamber meetings about needs that I know about."



ASK MR. TRASH

Q. I heard about China's ban on recycling. What IS recyclable now?

Please keep the following good recyclables empty, clean & dry:

- Cardboard and uncoated greyboard boxes (Shipping & cereal type). No frozen food boxes!
- Print-quality paper - newspaper, junk & office paper, and magazines
- Tin & Aluminum Cans Only - NO foil, trays, or scrap metal
- Plastic Bottles and Jugs Only - NO bags, tubs, clamshells, bubble Pak, or other plastics.

A. Be very careful to only recycle the things on your hauler's approved list.

NOTE: PLASTIC BAGS, STYROFOAM, & WAXY CARTONS WERE NEVER RECYCLABLE!

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