



Humane societies to merge on July 1

The Willamette Humane Society (WHS) will merge into Oregon Humane Society (OHS) on July 1, creating one organization. The process is expected to take up to 24 months to complete. Though the Salem location will retain its name for the short term, it will eventually be known as Oregon Humane Society.

The work of both humane societies is changing with an increased need to care for animals who need complex medical needs and behavior rehabilitation.

A merger allows for more collaboration, along with enhanced purchasing power. As a much larger organization spread across two campus locations, OHS will use the same software, phone systems, email management systems, and more. Those cost savings could directly impact their ability to serve the community.

Pets will also directly benefit from the collaboration. Willamette Humane Society currently transfers pets with complex issues to OHS as needed, to ensure that animals get the help they need to move on to happy lives. But those transfers require conversations, paperwork, planning and time. A merger will allow the two communities to collaborate much more quickly and

efficiently.

"I am very excited about what this change means for our community," said WHS executive director BJ Andersen. "I anticipate that we'll have even more resources available to help and protect the pets in Oregon, and that's something we all can celebrate."

In 2020, the WHS Board of Directors chose to explore the possibility of a merger as the best path forward to be able offer more state of the art animal welfare services to the community, while also building organizational resilience and sustainability. The global pandemic delayed the process a bit. After exploring all possible partners for a merger, they settled on OHS as their top choice, and WHS initiated the conversation with OHS in early 2021. Both organizations began the due diligence process and continued discussions between WHS and OHS leadership until both boards were satisfied that this was the right decision for each organization. The boards unanimously agreed to proceed with the merge earlier this year.

In recent years, other animal welfare agencies around the nation have chosen to merge, in an effort to cut overhead costs and streamline services.

Percey Auction set for May 12

The Percey Auction event, which has been held in September since its creation, is scheduled for May this year.

It is being held in the spring so as not to compete with the 2022 KeizerFEST, which will be held each August starting this year.

Percey is a fund raiser for the Keizer Network of Women's (KNOW) annual Giving Basket program. Each December, KNOW delivers toys, clothes and food to households in need. In 2021 more than \$30,000 was raised to deliver baskets to 305 families.

The Percey Auction will be held on Thursday, May 12, at Keizer's Best Western Premier hotel.

Organizers are seeking sponsors. To sponsor contact the Keizer Chamber of Commerce at 503-393-9111.

brainfood

Straight Forward

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By Charles Preston

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SYMPHONY: 'Austrian music through the ages'

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all over the world. Winner of the Gustav Mahler Conducting Competitions and the Bernhard Paumgartner Medal, Danzmayr was most recently conducting the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra in Chicago. He was famous for including an American composer in every one of their concerts.

"I believe each composer's musical expression is shaped by their personal environment, family heritage and culture," said Danzmayr,

who is forming a new creative alliance of cultural thought-leaders and music innovators in the Oregon and Southwest Washington communities.

Traditional classical music is not the only offering at the Oregon Symphony, which also features the music of The Princess Bride, Under the Sea, as well as the 125th Annual Anniversary Gala on April 9, hosted by Grammy-winning artist Chris Thile. Tickets can be purchased online at orsymphony.org.



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crossword
answers pg A23

We of the Keizertimes would like to appologize for missing the cross-word for last weeks paper (edition 03-11-2022), and thank those for calling in when they caught it. We hope you did not find it too much of an inconvenience.