Walks

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by. He could barely turn from one side to the other in his first year.

But as he grew, his parents and older sister discovered his complexities. Music, for one, enthralled and soothed him.

So they have every musical toy you can think of a baby Einstein discovery table, activity cubes, maracas, anything that can be used as a drum.

He lives in Aumsville with his parents, Dave and Aubrie Shewey, and 8year-old sister Hailey, in a modest, soft-yellow ranch. Joey's daily routine involves three caregivers. The first takes him to the pool or library for a morning activity. The next works with him at school in Salem. And a third handles his feeding tube and watches him in the evening.

progressedAs he's with therapy, Aubrie said you can see the concentration on his face. When he steps to the side to avoid his toys on the ground, or perhaps one of the family's furry members, she said you can see his mind race before stepping out.

"Joey has forced us to look at life differently," Aubrie said. "We're learning from him as much as he is learning from us."

When Hilary first met Joey in the PT Northwest office, she saw a young boy with goggles fastened to his face, a boy who wraps his fingers tightly around those he mingles with. He was learning to pull himself up at a table.

As she sat in the waiting room, she waved at

Joey.
"I remember feeling broken and unable to think coming to (physical therapy), yet Joey was a little spark, like a light, she said. "I couldn't help (but) smile at him, hoping he understood I saw him and thought he was so special.'

Though Joey can't speak, he finds other ways to communicate, even if only by making eye contact or offering a smile.

Over the next eight months, Hilary and Joey grew as friends. Hilary didn't know how old he was, what his last name was or his background, but she didn't care.

To her, he was Joey, a young boy in the midst of progress, just like her.

"Initially he wasn't very mobile, yet over time he became more and more active and engaged," Hilary said. "I was very much blessed by being able to watch him stand, take steps, cruise with his

walker and then walk independently.

'One day he came into the waiting room so determined ... I had to move to not be run over.'

Hilary still has to support her head when she drinks or kisses her family. Her hands can be clumsy and she still experiences dizziness, head-aches, nausea and some memory lapses.

A wife and mother of four, she has worked with special needs children for years, including as a leader with the special needs run at Awesome 3000.

She's a mental health counselor and supervisor for Yamhill County and commutes daily from Salem to McMinnville because of her passion for the work and her belief in the county's approach to mental health services.

She said the special needs race is important for kids like Joey, not just because it's fun and active, but because it provides children who may not have typical lives with the opportunity to enjoy an activity alongside their peers.

The atmosphere at Awesome 3000 race is

loud and electric. Nearly 3,000 kids from Salem-Keizer area and their families crowd McCulloch Stadium near

Bush's Pasture Park in Salem in May.

And though it's chaotic, the race has been a rite of passage for thousands of students over the last 35

Before Joey's race, Hilary saw him and one of his caretakers, Victoria Gidenko, with other participants warming up on the south infield. Joey and Gidenko took

off excitedly at the start of the race. But nearing the first turn, his parents said Joey began to lose en-

Though he was the last to finish, Joey powered through the 300-meter

When he tossed his walker aside, the crowd erupted into cheers. A tearful cluster of hugs and high-fives greeted him at the finish line.

"He's so resilient," Hilary said. "From the moment he walked across the finish line, I couldn't wait for my next ... appointment."

Two weeks after the race, Hilary returned to physical therapy. Waiting in the lobby, she looked up to see Joey walk into the His walker was no-

where in sight. "Where's Joey's walk-

er?" Hilary asked his caregiver. Joey decided he didn't need it anymore,

Joey Shewey, from left, and caregiver Victoria Gidenko stand with Hilary Brik-Morrisat a SKEF luncheon. Shewey and Brik-Morris became friends when they shared appointment times for physical therapy. MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL

she said.

Hundreds of people filled the Salem Convention Center ballroom in mid-September for the annual Salem-Keizer Education Foundation backto-school luncheon.

It's when the group volunteers recognizes and members who make their work possible.

Krina Lee, the foundation's executive director, started telling the audience about Hilary's relationship with Joey and the role she played in helping him participate.

"When I looked up at the large screen and they showed the picture of him crossing the finish line. I gasped with tears because that was such a special accomplishment and now everyone could see it, too," Hilary said.

To her surprise, Joey dressed in a dapper vest and bowtie — walked on stage with Gidenko's help.

Lee waved Hilary up, where Joey presented her with a clear, crystalline award. She rubbed his back, beaming back at

"I'm sure he touched my heart more than I touched his," she said.

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result in reinvestment risk for the bond owner. Edward Jones **MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING**

Race

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based approach to poli-

On the job, PubMed is his go-to source for making wellness-related decisions. As a politician, he likes to bring in expert testimony and learn what other cities and counties are doing to solve prob-

Second, he wants Marion County to utilize the college students - especially graduate students studying at institutions here. He wants the county to participate in more scientific studies, and students to tackle real-world problems in their courses of study.

"We're not extending a hand to students, and they're not coming to us," he said. "I've taught college for over 10 years, and I think the relationship between students and the community is essential for success."

Environmental sustainability is part of Plummer's platform, he said, because "it's the right thing to do." He's a lifelong promoter of bikes and other "active transportation" as a key to personal wellness and pollution reduction. He also supports mass transit and services such as Uber and Lyft to limit the number of cars on the roads.

Marion County can be earth-friendly by operating its buildings and services efficiently and offering tax credits to residents who take energy efficient measures such as installing solar panels at their homes and businesses, he said.

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"I want to have an openness to fresh ideas and also reach out to hear from the experts. At the county level, that means working with every department ... and hearing directly from the

MATT PLUMMER, DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE IN THE RUNNING FOR MARION COUNTY COMMISSIONER

fordable housing are two related areas of concern and interest for him.

employees."

Early next year, Plummer plans to launch a "listening tour" to learn what residents want from their county. At this point, his real expertise, he said, is in knowing what, exactly, each county department does, as he's worked so closely with all of them for the last two-and-half years.

"I won't claim to know everything, but I will claim to take the time and effort to talk to the people who do," he said.

Denyc Boles, 48, a Republican, is familiar with Marion County operations because she served on the budget committee that prepared the \$412 million budget for this year. She supports the county's tradition of "liv-ing within its means" and its "careful and sustainable budgeting," she said.

"In today's economy, voters want that. Voters want to know their tax dollars are being spent in the right places," she said.

But she would like to expand the county's partnerships with other government agencies, businesses and nonprofits to work on problems she sees every day.

Currently Salem Health's government affairs specialist, she hears regularly from hospital staff about patients who come to the emergency department because they "have no one" or are "falling through the cracks" in the area's social service network.

For example, it's not uncommon for 10-12 people with addiction problems to be sleeping off the effects of drugs or alcohol at the hospital on any given day, she said. The emergency department is also a catchall for psychiatric patients. This reality and her growing awareness of teen suicide have convinced her to push for cooperative treatment facilities and/or services.

"We live in a part of the world that offers so much, but too many people are falling through the cracks." she said. "The county is in a unique position to lead and build the partnerships needed to address these difficult and complicated issues."

Over her 20-year political career - seven months of which were as a state legislator in 2014 - she's heard from many people

she served on staff for Rep. Kevin Cameron and worked on a variety of campaigns, including former Silverton lawmaker, Vic Gilliam's.

As a short-term member of the House, she accomplished the unlikely task of sponsoring a bill and seeing it pass - that raised the penalties for video voyeurism. She built a coalition to write the bill after hearing about a young woman in Keizer who was secretly videotaped in her bedroom and bathroom.

"My strength is bringing people together," she said. "My desire is to pick up issues and work on solving them."

Growing up in Salem, Boles was surrounded by strong, educated female relatives who taught her that civic engagement is a She attended norm. Sprague High School and then earned a bachelor's degree from Seattle Pacific University and a master's in public policy from Regent University.

"When I was young, I never expected to stay in Marion County," she said. "And now, here I am, and I have a lot of institutional knowledge that's come from being engaged my whole life.

She and her husband's three children are nearly grown now, and she lives in the house where she grew up.

She believes in limited government because, she said, individuals and nongovernment organizations do best at providing 'warm and fuzzy" community services. Personally, she's offered her home as a quasi-safe house for teenagers and volunteered with Young Life and Boys and Girls Clubs.

"Government some things really well, and they do other things not so well," she said.

If she's elected as commissioner, Boles said she'll focus on strong infrastructure and services to support family wage job growth, businesses

and agriculture. information More about Matt Plummer is on Facebook at "Matt Plummer, Candidate for Marion County Commission,' while more information about Denyc Boles is online

www.vote4boles.com.

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