

# HEROES,

continued from Page A1

know about him. He wears a red spandex bodysuit with black boots, matching gloves, and a chest harness sporting his custom yellow logo. A black eye mask covers his face above the nose. The get-up is a kit-bashed homage, of sorts, to three of Shield's favorite superheroes: Captain America, the Golden Age Phantom, and Mr. Incredible from the Pixar *The Incredibles* movie of the last decade.

Shield smiles through his thick beard, then asks if Adam would like a picture. Hayes already knew Shield because of a news article a few years back about Shield patrolling in Beaverton.

"Dude, would I?" responds Adam. "Just walking down the street and I bump in Guardian Shield. And who are you?"

The last part is directed to The Night Spider, Arachnight. It's not hard to deduce which comic book hero influenced the man behind the full-face mask the most. Arachnight's costume is a blending of two versions of Spider-Man and one of his most notable enemies, Venom.

After a brief introduction, Adam turns his attention back to Shield, telling him that he was thinking hard about joining the ranks of community superheroes a few years ago. Adam tells Shield about the design he came up with for a costume of his own.

"What stopped you?" Shield asks the question twice because he would eagerly welcome new people to the superhero movement. Strength in numbers, so long as the players take the mission seriously.

The mission, Shield says a few minutes later, is key.

"You gotta keep the mission small. Some community superheroes want to bust drug lords or fight ISIS. Our job is interrupting a purse-snatching, a person breaking into a car, or stopping an assault," Shield says. "It's about being eyes and ears when the police can't be there. You can't be a vigilante. We work within the law."

Hayes snaps a picture of Shield and Arachnight and then the group crosses River Road together. Before putting some distance between them, Adam asks for one last picture, a selfie with the heroes.

"The most challenging thing, when you start out, is you have to learn to get past the



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald  
Adam Hayes snaps a selfie with Guardian Shield and Arachnight during their patrol Saturday, Sept. 30.

name-calling and naysayers. You will be made fun of, but you have to recognize that there is someone out there who will think this is awesome," Arachnight says.

Fortunately, for every hater, there are 20 Adams out there.

## WATCHMEN

Their paths to becoming community superheroes didn't intersect until they met online, but Shield and Arachnight feel they have common enemies in apathy and indifference.

"One of my big pushes to do this was seeing YouTube videos of people getting beat up while others stood there

filming it. That is unacceptable," says Shield.

Arachnight puts it more bluntly.

"If you were getting your teeth kicked in and looked up to see someone filming so they get likes on Facebook, how would you feel?" he asks.

Shield has patrolled for three years, Arachnight for two, and neither has been involved in a major altercation.

"We are not out here to replace the police. We are here to help and assist because it's our community, too," says Shield. Most people, he added, are deterred by the suit alone: "I'm already crazy enough to be out

here by myself in spandex, how crazy are you?"

Being eyes and ears in the dark spaces can help prevent situations from escalating or catch them before they take a turn for the worse, said Arachnight.

A few weeks ago, Shield spotted a Ringo's patron trying to coax a friend into the trunk of his car for the ride home. The man's girlfriend was riding shotgun in the two-seater.

"I went up to him and told him that wasn't going to work and everyone ended up in the car itself," Shield said.

On one of his early adventures, Shield walked up on a domestic dispute and called 9-1-1, knowing the situation was beyond his abilities to diffuse.

Tonight, the patrol ends up being essentially a long string of good deeds: flickering a flashlight to get a driver to turn on his headlights, going into Shari's to notify a patron that they left their headlights on, picking up large pieces of litter and leaving a pair of Gatorades next to a sleeping homeless man.

"We want to be a deterrent to violent crime," says Arachnight. "If the bad guys notice you are there, the majority of them aren't going to do

anything, whether it's assaulting somebody or breaking into a car."

## SECRET ORIGINS

Shield and Arachnight grew up on a steady diet of comic books and pop cultural representations of the characters found in them. Shield found something between the panels that felt like a higher calling.

"I'm not invulnerable or perfect, it's that I'm willing to put myself between an innocent person and a bully," says Shield. "I was on the MAX one time and a guy was talking to me that he felt like he was talking to Captain America—like I was on that level—that was cool. People get excited to see a superhero and I'd like to think that goodness carries over into their lives."

For Arachnight, comic books were an escape.

"I came out of a broken home and, when I needed a sense of hope, I cracked open a comic book. My mom's death was the influence that told me I needed to become that hero I always wanted to be. I don't think her death is the reason I do this, but I know she would support it if she were still here," Arachnight said.

Please see HEROES, Page A10

# Business & Services

**FUNERAL HOME**

**CROWN**  
MEMORIAL CENTERS  
CREMATION & BURIAL  
*A New Tradition™*

Salem • 412 Lancaster Dr | 503-581-6265

**Low Cost Cremation,  
Burial, & Funerals**

Simple Cremation - \$595  
Simple Direct Burial - \$710  
Traditional Funeral - \$2,275

www.ANewTradition.com

**HEATING & COOLING**

**YOUR COMFORT IS OUR BUSINESS**

**CEC**  
HEATING &  
AIR CONDITIONING  
CleanEnergyComfort.com

Gas Furnaces  
Heat Pumps  
Air Conditioners  
Indoor Air Quality  
Ductless Heat Pumps

CCB #193064

**CALL 503.304.1320 - 3816 River Rd N**

**MEMORY CARE**

NEW MEMORY CARE IN KEIZER

- Dementia Specific Activity Programs
- Support Groups & Family Education
- Weekly Housekeeping Services
- Neighborhood Style & Design
- Medication Management
- Respite Care

**TOURS DAILY**

**THE ARBOR**  
at Avonere Court  
A PART OF THE AVONERE FAMILY OF COMPANIES

450 Claggett Court N, Keizer, OR 97303  
www.arboratavamerecourt.com

**503-856-7440**

**LAWN SERVICES**

**COMPLETE LAWN & GARDEN CARE**  
Yard cleanups, mowing, pruning,  
bark dusting, and more!

**Jim's**  
Lawn Services  
SERVING KEIZER  
SINCE 1984

**CALL TODAY - 503.304.8849**

**NURSING & REHAB**

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 39 YEARS

**Sherwood Park**  
NURSING & REHAB CENTER

*Our family serving your family*

24-HOUR SKILLED NURSING • THERAPY • WOUND MANAGEMENT  
LONG TERM CARE • DEMENTIA CARE • AWARD WINNING ACTIVITIES  
DELICIOUS HOMEMADE FOOD • LOVELY SURROUNDINGS • CARING STAFF

4062 ARLETA AVE NE • KEIZER, OR • 503-390-2271  
WWW.SHERWOODPARK.COM

**PLUMBING**

**GORMLEY**  
PLUMBING + MECHANICAL  
A Family Tradition Since 1908

Now Serving Salem + Keizer  
503.375.7620

Residential • Commercial • Industrial • Wineries

877.GORMLEY | gormleyplumbing.com  
Licensed, Bonded & Insured | CCB #48494

**MASSAGE**

**OREGON**  
SCHOOL of  
MASSAGE

- Student Massage Clinic
- Store - Supplies & Gifts
- Professional Training

2111 Front St NE in Salem  
503-585-8912 or 877-588-8912  
OregonSchoolofMassage.com

**REAL ESTATE**

**John L. Scott**  
REAL ESTATE

Ken Ream 503-881-5335  
Carolyn Ream 503-551-3656

**Creating Change Starts With Us!**  
You have options — we are different. We go above and beyond what most Realtors will do. If selling, we help you paint, pressure wash, move you, and help you with staging your home. If buying, there are two of us always available to meet your needs and help you through the process.

**FIND OUT MORE AT www.KenReam.JohnLScott.com**

**REAL ESTATE**

*The McVays are Keizer*

Born, raised, & residing in Keizer, the McVays have 27 combined years of experience with Coldwell Banker. They know this market and are here to help!

**BRIAN & APRIL McVAY**  
Your goals are their priority

503.510.6827  
mccvaythree@gmail.com

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
MOUNTAIN WEST REAL ESTATE, INC.

**DIABETES**

This could save your life.  
[diabetes.org/FindOut](http://diabetes.org/FindOut)

American Diabetes Association.  
**CheckUpAmerica®**  
[diabetes.org/FindOut](http://diabetes.org/FindOut)  
1-800-DIABETES (342-2383)

**SAND & GRAVEL**

**Windsor Rock PRODUCTS**

Topsoil, Crushed Rock  
Round Rock  
Pea Gravel

You haul or we deliver  
Prompt Service - Saturday until noon  
Phone quotes

**393-8920**  
824 Windsor Island Rd. N. • KEIZER

**VEHICLE GRAPHICS**

**ALL STAR**  
CUSTOM GRAPHICS

SCREEN PRINTING  
**VEHICLE WRAPS**  
EMBROIDERY & MORE!

Team & Fan Wear • Banners  
Stickers • Window Tinting

FIND US BY Point 5 Tires  
3818 River Rd N, Keizer  
**503.991.5316**

**VENUE**

HOST YOUR EVENT AT

**KEIZER HERITAGE CENTER**  
1916

WEDDINGS • RECEPTIONS  
SOCIAL EVENTS

Visit the all new  
**KeizerHeritage.org**

**VETERINARIAN**

**Willamette Valley Animal Hospital**

NOW OFFERING  
ACUPUNCTURE  
AND  
CHIROPRACTIC  
SERVICES

Owner  
**DR. SHERI MORRIS**  
B.Sc., DVM,  
Diplomate, ABVP

4975 River Road North  
Keizer, OR 97303  
503-393-7462  
wvah.net

Mon & Fri: 8am-6pm,  
Tue-Wed-Thu: 8am-9pm,  
Sat: 8am-4pm, Sun: 11am-4pm  
No Appt. Necessary

**AAHA**  
AMERICAN  
ANIMAL  
HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION

**VETERINARIAN**

**CREEKSIDE**  
VETERINARY CLINIC

**503.390.5222**  
CreeksideVetKeizer.com  
113 McNary Estates Dr N, Suite B - Next to Don Suklis State Farm Insurance

**LAM FOUNDATION**

**LAM**  
IS A DEADLY  
LUNG DISEASE  
WITH NO  
KNOWN CURE

Learn More  
Visit [thelamfoundation.org](http://thelamfoundation.org)

**YOUR MORTGAGE**

**LANDMARK**  
PROFESSIONAL  
MORTGAGE COMPANY

**Nelson Lomax**, Mortgage Loan Originator NMLS #271083

Office: 503-581-8100  
Cell: 503-910-8510  
[Nelson@landmarkprofessional.net](mailto:Nelson@landmarkprofessional.net)

NMLS #399162  
OR LIC #ML-5038  
WA LIC #MB-399162

1255 Lee St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302