

KeizerCommunity

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Keizer kid mastering Rubik's cube



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By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer 7-year-old, Wyatt Isom, learned how to solve a Rubik's cube the only way a boy his age in this day could—watching YouTube.

It took him less than four hours, on a Saturday over Thanksgiving break.

"I just saw it on YouTube and I really wanted to be able to solve it," Wyatt said.

The Rubik's cube wasn't his first puzzle.

"His mind has always been interested in puzzles and trying to figure them out," Wyatt's mom Kaysha said. "From a very young age, he's always had the determination and dedication to sit there to solve the puzzle. When he sets his mind to something, he's going to figure it out that day."

After mastering the standard 3x3, which he can now solve

in under a minute, Wyatt began trying other size and shape Rubik's cubes. He has six and can solve all of them. The easiest is the 2x2.

"The funny thing is everyone says they can solve this (2x2) and they just end up not solving it," said Wyatt, who has impressed his classmates at Clear Lake Elementary, where he is in the second grade. "Everyone brings them to school to solve. There's one kid that wants to have a lesson."

Wyatt has learned how to solve them by watching YouTube. But none of them have been as difficult as the first.

"It was a lot easier because I already knew how to solve a normal one," he said. "It was just really easy."

Wyatt plays video games like a lot of kids but he'd rather work on his Rubik's cubes.

"He takes it to school with him. He takes it everywhere with him," Kaysha said. "He just wants to keep challenging himself. He'd rather pick up his cube than play a game. I'm okay with that."

Wyatt solves each cube by memorizing different sets of algorithms. He plans on going to his first competition either as a team in Eugene or individually in Corvallis on Feb. 24.

He'd also like to go to national and international competitions.



Wyatt Isom, a second grader at Clear Lake Elementary School, can solve the standard 3x3 Rubik's cube in under a minute as well as five other kinds of Rubik's cubes. KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

"There's some in Japan that I really want to go to," Wyatt said. "I want to get the world record (4.73 seconds)."

"It just blows my mind that he can do it so fast," Kaysha added.

Museum needs volunteers

The Keizer Heritage Museum at the Keizer Heritage Center tells the story of Keizer's history.

They wish to have the museum open more hours but need two or more volunteers to work specific hosting shifts in the museum.

What does that entail? It includes greeting visitors, assuring they sign in the visitor book, offering answers to questions about the exhibits and the building itself.

The two- or four-hour shifts are currently available on the first and last Saturday of

each month, either 1-4 p.m. or 2-4 p.m.

Scared to field questions you don't know the answers to? No worries, they will train and you will learn all the information needed. Call 503-393-9660 or email Tammy Wild at keizerhistory@aol.com.



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