

Local man puts on firework show for those in need

By LAUREN MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

The pandemic has made things hard for many in recent months which means some families had to forgo the fireworks and festivities on the Fourth of July this year.

Keizerite David Peyree wanted to help local families celebrate by sharing what he's been blessed with.

Peyree put out an open invitation on Facebook for people who were not able to

celebrate to come and watch their fireworks. Though he did not get many responses from the Keizer group he posted in, he had a few people show up, including: three to four families from his apartment complex, an employee from the massage parlor and a car that

— David Peyree

stopped to watch the festivities. "Me and my brother were

lighting them off, trying to get through them as quickly as possible so people could go back to their evenings," Peyree said. He clarified that all of the fireworks were legal in Oregon.

Between working as a call center rep and being a member of various local Facebook groups, Peyree has encountered a lot of people who are struggling due to COVID-19.

"I think now more than

ever it's important for hope and community to thrive," he said.

Because he has been able to work from home, Peyree was fortunate enough to have extra money to spend on fireworks. He said this was the first year he'd seen empty firework stands, which made him think people were skipping the fireworks to make ends meet. "There's no reason for families and kids to miss out if

I have enough to get what I need and put on a good show," Peyree said.

He said he was glad he got the opportunity to serve his community, even if it was only a few members.

"This isn't the time to save or prepare, this is the time to share, if you have enough to share. The only way we're going to get through this is if we get through this together," Peyree said.



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A message for The Rapping Duke

Dear Duke,

To be honest, we weren't sure what to think when you arrived out of the blue last Thursday.

With your hat pulled low over dark sunglasses and a pristine white bandana covering any other identifying traits, we couldn't help but wonder what brought The Invisible Man to our office.

We get a fair share of quirky visitors - and we adore them all - but you were unique in so many smile-inducing ways. (If you are a woman, Duke, kudos on the lengths to which you went to disguise it.)

Without a word, you placed a small piece of folded paper in the hand of one employee and another on the desk of our receptionist. Then you vanished as quickly and quietly as you appeared.

Our employees opened



the paper with some trepidation, only to discover notes wrapped around \$20 bills that read, "Lunch on me. From the Rapping Duke."

Delight and astonish-

ment took the place of fear, then something else happened. Both of our employees almost immediately began devising plans to re-gift the money you so generously left in your wake.

Leah plans to donate your gift to the Keizer Community Food Bank.

Lori paid for the person behind her in line at a local fast food restaurant. It's something she's always wanted to do and your gift brought the dream to fruition.

All of this is to say, we see you, Duke.

We may not know your

name or how to describe you to our readers, but we see your heart. It's big and bold and pulsing with the kindness and goodwill that fuels the work we do at the newspaper.

Thank you for sharing a piece of your heart with us, and for inspiring the employees you bestowed with gifts and the collective staff of the paper.

Keep doing good work and we will too.

In kindness, gratitude and boundless respect,

The staff of the Keizertimes



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57													59		

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1 Sullen look
5 African nation
9 Speech impediment
13 ___ Major
14 Watered silk
15 Melville work
16 Where to sell short
18 Bach work
19 Bancroft
20 Place next to
22 Thicket: Brit.
26 Eye part
27 Borgnine
28 Associate
29 Embankment
30 Meditated on
31 Below a cpl.
34 Venerable
35 Like windows
36 The Musketeers, e.g.
37 Dearie, for short
38 Bay window
39 Certain Hindu believer
40 Potatoes, e.g.
42 Part's partner
43 Pick-me-ups
44 Toe ___, rhythmic
45 Gold compound
46 ___ bene

DOWN

1 Tavern
2 Mispickel, e.g.
3 UN member
4 Gob
5 Clichéd
6 Increase
7 Metric measure
8 Objective
9 Fly ball
10 GATT concern
11 March King
12 Affectation
14 French painter
17 Parson's pad
21 Trudge
22 Psalms word
23 You're welcome, signore
24 Goods on hand
25 Lack
26 Stendhal protagonist

28 Geometric solids
30 Poker holdings
32 Less coarse
33 Newcastle redundancy
35 Principles
36 Marine cover
38 Final notice
39 Nakasone's land
41 Incompetent
42 South African author
43 Topsy ___
44 Videre, to Virgil
45 Arabian gulf
46 Greek goddess
49 Alley ___
50 In favor of
51 Chit
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53 Allow