

## 97303 virus numbers rise 15%

### Governor limits all indoor gatherings to 10 people

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

After a brief reprieve, the number of positive COVID-19 cases spiked again in the 97303 zip code according to the latest report from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

OHA officials identified an additional 24 positive COVID-19 tests in the report released Wednesday, July 8, up from 151 the week prior.

Just a few weeks ago, 97303 was one of the hot spots for surging cases of COVID-19. The area, which includes all of Keizer and smaller portions of Salem, experienced two weeks of 20 percent jumps in the number of positive COVID-19 p tests. It fell to a 5% increase (eight cases) on July 1, then leapt up another 15% last week.

While cases of the virus are increasing, hospitalizations and deaths

in Marion County – a sign of serious infection – have not increased and remain below the peak in April. Still, COVID-19 cases in Oregon rose by more than 300 in five of the past 10 days, peaking as 409 new cases on July 11.

While Keizer does not have an identified outbreak of coronavirus, the Oregon State Penitentiary, Santiam Correctional Institution,

Salem Hospital, NorPac, Brucepac, and the Salem Amazon facility, all in neighboring zip codes, have had reported outbreaks.

It is possible that Keizer's surge in cases could be linked to those outbreaks and employees that live here, but those details are not part of OHA's reporting.

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## Stronger together

Julianne Jackson addresses a crowd of about 75 at a Unity BBQ at Willow Lake Golf Center & Driving Range Sunday, July 12. For more photos, see Page A3.

KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon Zaitz

## Debrief expected on city hack

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

In early June, the city of Keizer's computers were hacked and the data therein held hostage until a ransom was paid.

Even as city officials announced what had happened, details of what happened and how have been scant. Keizer Finance Director Tim Wood plans to debrief the council Monday, July 20, on with more details on what happened and what the recovery process has entailed.

The city paid a \$48,000 ransom to retrieve access to its data, an expense that the Keizer city council will eventually need to ratify, but there are likely already additional costs the city has incurred as a result of the digital strike.

Early last week, Wood said the city staff are still monitoring the network and computers for lingering signs of viruses, continuing to rebuild and repair servers where the data was located, rebuilding some computers that were partially or fully encrypted in the attack, testing the stability of software the city uses and working with an outside consultant "to identify and implement ways to

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## City looks back on lessons learned, so far

By **ERIC A. HOWALD**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

In 2019, the Keizer City Council reviewed its emergency preparation plans; "pandemic" wasn't a word that came up during the discussions.

Given that councilors and city staff were caught as off guard as the general population, the council convened a work session Monday, July 13, to talk about the lessons learned so far.

"Rather than wait for the fall, I wanted to take advantage

and look at where we are midstream. I want to look at where we've capitalized on strengths and had weaknesses exposed," said Mayor Cathy Clark.

Each department director offered input on how the pandemic affected their work and the work of city staff.

### ADMINISTRATION

City Manager Chris Eppley said he was hesitant to close the Keizer Civic Center so

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## MHS graduations on track for Aug. 7



McNary grads from 2019 toss their caps in a more traditional ceremony.

File

By **MATT RAWLINGS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Although it will look drastically different from years past, McNary High School will be hosting a multitude of in-person graduation ceremonies on Friday, August 7.

Each ceremony will be held at the McNary football field.

Because of Marion County's phase two restrictions on outdoor public gatherings, each ceremony will feature a maximum of 45 graduates. Each student can invite up to four people to the ceremony.

All attendees are encouraged to socially distance and wear masks. Each ceremony is scheduled

to be between 35-45 minutes long and deep cleaning of surfaces is scheduled in-between each gathering.

"The most important things are safety, and making sure we can give our kids this moment," McNary assistant principal Dan Borresen said.

Although it's unknown at

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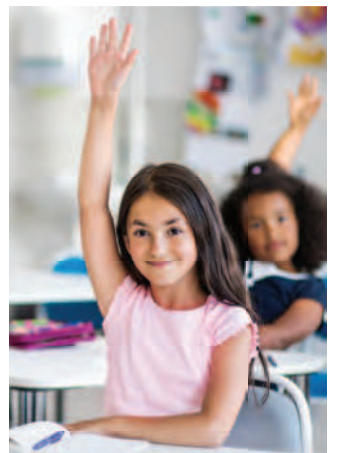
Clear shields at every customer service station were one way the city adapted to the pandemic crisis.

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

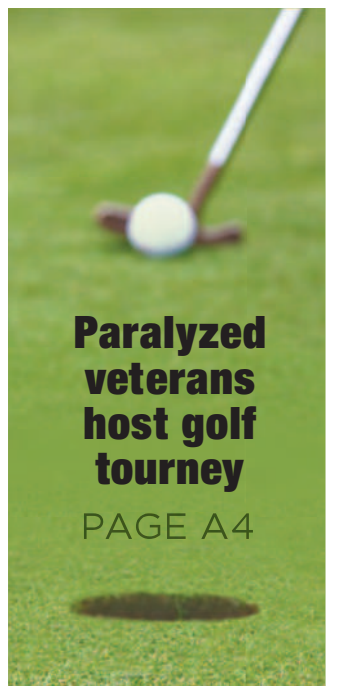
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