

Black Joy Tour visits Keizer

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

Summer Reyes, holding a sign reading “I’m Your Neighbor,” waved to supporters as they honked driving into Keizer Station Saturday, Aug. 29.

She was joined by about 20 others who stood holding signs and waving to drivers as part of The Black Joy Tour, an effort to put the spotlight on the ways people of color contribute to their communities. Reyes is friends with some of the organizers and asked them to stop in Keizer on the way to eastern Oregon.

“It’s not easy being a woman of color in Keizer, so I asked them to come,” Reyes said. “I love it here, right down to its core values of volunteerism but, I gotta tell you, this past year has made me want to leave.”

For many, everyday activities have been re-contextualized in the wake of civil unrest and protests sparks by the deaths of black men and women at the hands of law enforcement officers in other areas. For Reyes, it’s meant taking greater notice of how others react to the color of her skin.

“When I’m with my neighbors, everyone is great but, when I’m walking my dog alone, people rev their engines as they go by or circle back to look at me,” she said. “It feels like they are doing these things to intimidate me with their trucks and it definitely feels



“It’s not easy being a woman of color in Keizer, so I asked them to come.” — Summer Reyes

different than before.”

In addition to highlighting contributions by people of color, The Black Joy Tour hopes to spark solidarity among minority residents in communities where they feel less visible. By visiting cities without organized movements, Black Joy’s members hope their visit emboldens local activism by showing strength in numbers, said organizer Amanda Clark.

“What we want to do is offset some of the negative images that you see in the media,” Clark said.

Clark and other participants planned to visit Pendleton Saturday afternoon and make several additional stops on a three-day trip back to the Salem area.

“What’s great about this tour is that we’re going to these little places that you

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

TOP: Bella holds a sign hitting the high points of The Black Joy Tour’s message. ABOVE: Elliott Fullmer-Eiffler brought a sign and a bubble shooter to show her support.

Reid seeks second council

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

City Councilor Laura Reid saw the opportunity to run for the Keizer City Council four years ago as an pathway to become more involved. But, even with decades of experience as a high school teacher, there was a steep learning curve.

“You learn very quickly that the city’s business is basically all the services nobody else can make money doing,” Reid said. “But we work well as a team because we bring a variety of professional experiences to the problems.”

Reid is facing a challenger in Mike DeBlasi as she runs for re-election to Position 1 on the council in November.

One of the critiques Reid had of the council going into the job was the appearance



Laura Reid

that the council voted unanimously on most issues. While that hasn’t changed much in four years, Reid has a different perspective on it now.

“By the time we get to a vote, we’ve had very robust conversations and gotten a clear idea of the different perspectives,” Reid said.

Reid’s time on the council has been anything but boring.

In four years, she played a role in the city implementing fees for parks and police services, seen the city navigate the legal system over safety concerns at a Polk County shooting range, taken part in wide-ranging discussions about city growth and been part of the city’s response to COVID-19 and the hacking of city computers.

“Being involved in all those conversations was really enlightening regarding how things get done, and I love that people show up to council meetings when they have an issue,” Reid said.

Recently, some residents have renewed calls for the council to adopt an inclusivity resolution. Reid said the council will hold a work session Monday, Sept. 14, to talk about ways the city can

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Help wanted: Teen concierges

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools across the state, 16-year old Westview High sophomore Neel Jain knew that he wanted to spend his extra time helping those who were vulnerable in his community.

He started by going grocery shopping for his grandmother, who has asthma, and is more vulnerable to COVID-19 and other infections.

“I was happy to help my grandma, but that made me realize that there are others out there who don’t have that kind of support. So with school being closed, I decided that I wanted to help more people out,” Jain said.

In April, Jain created PDX Concierge, a free grocery delivery service to those who are vulnerable and confined to their homes during COVID-19.

Jain created the website, along with a mobile app, and got more than 30 friends and classmates to volunteer to deliver groceries to anyone who is elderly, immunocompromised or otherwise affected by COVID-19 — such as first responders — in the Portland area, making more than 150



deliveries over the last four months.

PDX Concierge recently starting making deliveries to Salem last month after a friend of Jain’s, who lives in Salem, encouraged him to expand his reach. Now, Jain and his volunteer staff will be taking orders in Keizer and are currently looking for more people in the area that are interested in serving.

“We have the capacity for it, so we want to do it,” Jain said.

According to Jain, it took a little while to get the word out, but once June came, he was taking and delivering orders every day.

Jain and his crew maintain precautions

while making deliveries, wearing masks and gloves, along with practicing social distancing. Customers can reimburse the volunteers via cash, check or payment app — no tip or service fees are required. They also will occasionally leave their customers handwritten

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LIGHTS, ZOOM, ACTION: Keizer Homegrown Theatre gears up for digital production



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Actor Cathy Willoughby with Edward Tulane from the upcoming KHT production.

By **LAUREN MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Homegrown Theatre is diving into the world of digital productions.

Under the direction of Jeff Minden, the troupe will stage online *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* adapted by Dwayne Hartford from the book by Kate DiCamillo.

In an effort to provide live theater and adhere to safety regulations, Keizer Homegrown’s organizers started looking for shows that had licensing rights that included streaming in addition to live productions.

“I read the script and just fell in love with it,” Minden said.

Miraculous Journey follows the story of a rabbit named Edward Tulane who, over the

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Celt star taking game to Nevada
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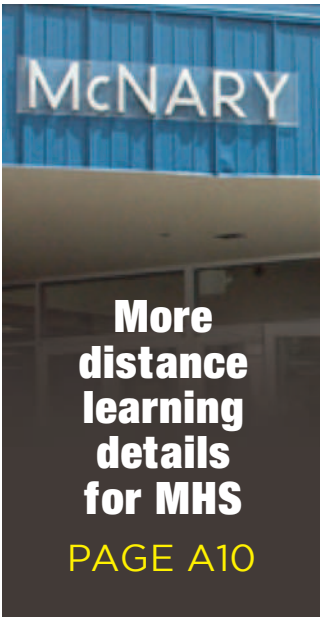
KFD helps Cali fire fight
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Keizer teen tames mustang
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More distance learning details for MHS
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