



The lion-like **HEART** behind Phil Bay Day

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Phil Bay was a little suspicious when friends and family told him he had to be at the Keizer Civic Center to celebrate the retirement of one of his daughters, on a Monday night no less.

“She lives in Monmouth, so I thought that was a bit odd,” Bay said.

Instead of a party for a relative, Bay himself was the one being honored. On April 19, the Keizer City Council adopted a proclamation honoring Bay for his long history of service to the Keizer community, it included his own day, Sept. 10.

His many contributions include volunteer firefighter, city councilor, coach and volunteering through the Keizer Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club.

“I always assumed that if I was going to live here, I needed to be part of the community and make it a better place. It was

something I had to do,” Bay said.

If Bay only had a long list of volunteer efforts, it would not have set him apart from many others in the city. It’s the way he moves through the world that defines his legacy.

Not so long ago, as the newspaper industry navigated yet another sea change, the reporters at this paper were also the ones delivering them to newsstands as a way to cut costs. Personally, it felt like one more knock down the towering ladder of humility at the time. Most of the time, I was fuming in my car between deliveries (and, yes, it was a ridiculously petty concern in retrospect). Keizer’s Ace Hardware, where Phil worked at the time, was the one stop that made a small part of my weekly rounds bearable. Without fail, Phil would be at the front of the store or make his way

there to greet me and ask what was news that week. I was already two days into the next week’s paper by that point and had to scan the front page to remind myself before giving him an answer. Phil made it damn near impossible to feel diminished in his eyes and that is only one example of his genteel demeanor and respectful, calming presence.

Bay moved to Keizer in 1964 and took a job as produce manager at what was then a brand new Albertsons at the corner of Chemawa and River Road, where Walgreens is today. He met his wife Joyce on a blind date not long after his arrival and the two married about a year later. He also worked for Orcutt’s IGA and Fred Meyer as an auto center manager before opening a Farmers Insurance office in 1975.

From the start, Bay was an active

member of the community in addition to providing for a growing, blended family. He joined the Keizer Fire District as a volunteer. At the time, the fire district was a tent pole of the larger Keizer community. Bay remembers fondly days working alongside fellow firefighters on community projects and husking mountains of corn for a booth at the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest.

The work was rewarding, but it came with a lot of long nights. “There were times when we’d have fire call at 1 or 2 a.m. and we couldn’t go home until the hoses we used were put on a dryer and fresh ones loaded on the truck,” Bay said.

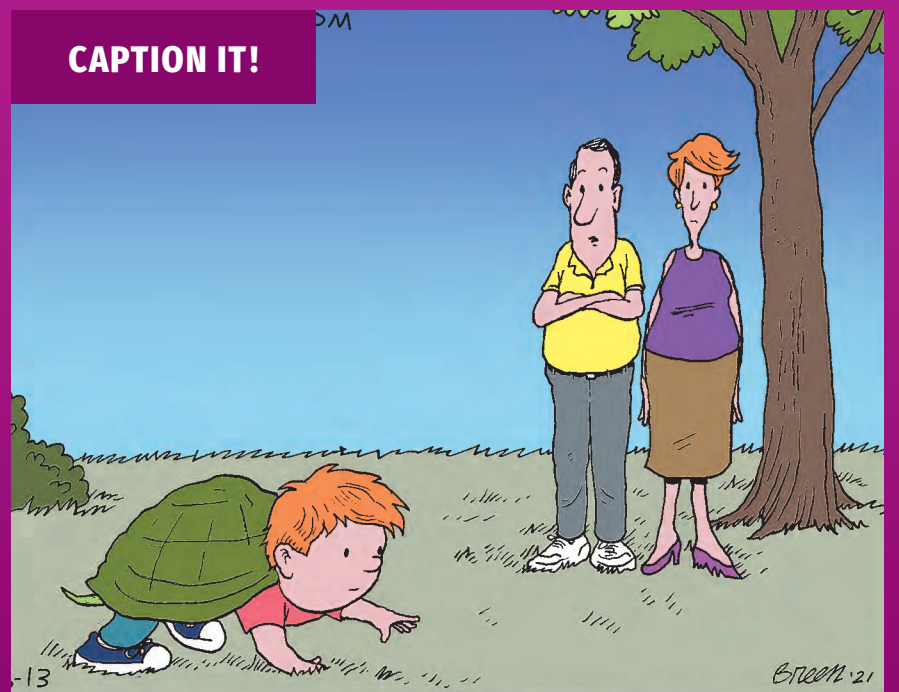
Despite a growing number of commitments that included being something of a night watchman role for Cummings Elementary School, coaching and Cub Scouts leadership, Phil and Joyce made

Caption It!

By STEVE BREEN



“I’LL LET YOU LIVE HERE, BUT YOU’RE GONNA HAVE TO GET YOUR OWN WI-FI.”
- Bill Hemmerlein, Syracuse, NY



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