

Keizertimes

presents...

2021 *Summer* **CONCERT SERIES** FREE
 KEIZER ROTARY AMPHITHEATER at KEIZER RAPIDS PARK

LIVE MUSIC THIS WEEKEND!




BEER, WINE & SPIRITS BY  **Santiam Brewing Company**
 Salem, Oregon

GATES OPEN 5:00 pm
SHOWS START 6:30 pm

Please no outside food or beverages. NO PETS allowed inside the amphitheater.

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Debra Flowers had custom T-shirts made announcing her proud stance on COVID-19 vaccination and is hoping to get more supporters on board. "The shirt gets a lot of positive response," she said. Photo by ERIC A. HOWALD of Keizertimes

Spreading the word - via T-shirt

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Debra Flowers just wants to help the world smile again. She hopes a cheery, tie-dye T-shirt announcing her vaccinated status moves the needle.

"I mean, it's tie-dye. How can you not smile at a shirt that has everyone's favorite color on it," Flowers said.

Flowers' father was a lifer in the U.S. Navy and vaccinations were a required part of growing up in a military family. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Flowers did her best to shelter herself against infection and never had any doubt she would be vaccinated when the time came.

"The shirt gets a lot of positive response, especially from some of the younger people who live in my apartment complex," she said. Flowers gifted one of the shirts to a student as a way to reward a decision she sees as a positive. Some others turn their nose up when they spot her shirt, but Flowers remains undeterred.

When inspiration struck, Flowers was thinking not only of her father's military

career, but also her grandmothers.

"One of them was a quilter and the other was a nurse. The tie-dye felt inspired by the colors one grandmother worked with and being vaccinated felt like I was pulling from the other," she said.

Flowers had hoped to get local first responders - firefighters especially - to take part in her campaign, but even that turned out to be too political. She even reached out to the Oregon National Guard given their significant role in distributing the vaccine, but the answer was still no.

"It's disappointing, but I'm still hopeful about finding someplace else to help me spread the message," she said.

At the end of that day, she's proud of her decision to be vaccinated and mainly wants to help move the community as a whole onto a less divisive space and time.

"I try to have a sense of humor about the whole thing, but I don't know how something medical became political," Flowers said.

Curtains fall on KHT's Shakespeare Abridged

It's the final weekend to catch Keizer Homegrown Theatre's production of *The Complete Works of Williams Shakespeare (Abridged)*.

The final shows are Friday, July 16, and Saturday, July 17, at 7 p.m. each night.

Tickets are \$15 but admission is free with a presented Oregon Trail Card. Season tickets purchased in 2020 will be honored for this show.

Seating is limited for the show. Visit keizerhomegrowntheatre.org to purchase tickets.

Three actors run through parodies of all 37 Shakespeare plays at a blistering rate. *Titus Andronicus* is presented as a cooking show. Other shows that get skewered include *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar*.