

# KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Keizer's finest

The Keizer Chamber of Commerce bestowed awards on five deserving Keizer people at its annual First Citizen Awards banquet last week.

Former Mayor Lore Christopher was named Keizer's First Citizen; Joe Egli was named merchant of the year; Krina Lee and Chuck Lee were honored as winners of the service to education award. Dan Clem, who will be moving to Keizer soon but works at the Keizer Chamber working on governmental affairs issues was chosen by Audrey Butler for this year's president's award. A committee chooses the winners in all the categories except the president's award.

Lore Christopher, who served 14 years a mayor, was named First Citizen as much for what she did as mayor as what she hopes to do in Keizer—especially in the field of the arts.

For the first time the Chamber had five nominees for each award. Christopher's fellow nominees were Mark Caillier, Don Conat, Rich Duncan and Richard Walsh—any could have won this honor and it would have been a great choice.

Former city councilor Joe Egli was named Merchant of the Year, an honor given to a local businessperson who has volunteered for the benefit of Keizer business in general and the Keizer Chamber of Commerce in particular. Egli is a former president of Keizer Rotary Club and the Keizer Chamber of Commerce. Aside from his day job as an agent with R. Bauer Insurance, Egli is serving his second year as chairman of the Keizer Iris Festival, the Chamber's primary fund raising event. Egli matches Lore Christopher as an unwavering booster and cheerleader for Keizer and Keizer businesses.

Nominated for merchant award

were Larry Jackson of Jackson's Body Shop, Shelly Paddock of Shelly's Kids Preschool and Childcare, Scott White and Kalynn White of Big Town Hero and Lyndon Zaitz of the *Keizertimes*.

The Service to Education Award has been presented to teachers, principals and education supporters. This year the dual winners were—as last year's winner, Ron Hittner called them—Keizer's education power couple: Krina and Chuck Lee.

Krina Lee is executive director of the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation; Chuck Lee, a Salem-Keizer School Board member and former president of Blanchet Catholic School, is currently president of Mountain West Career Technical Institute. The institute is scheduled to open in September and provide technical training for up to 100 students its first year.

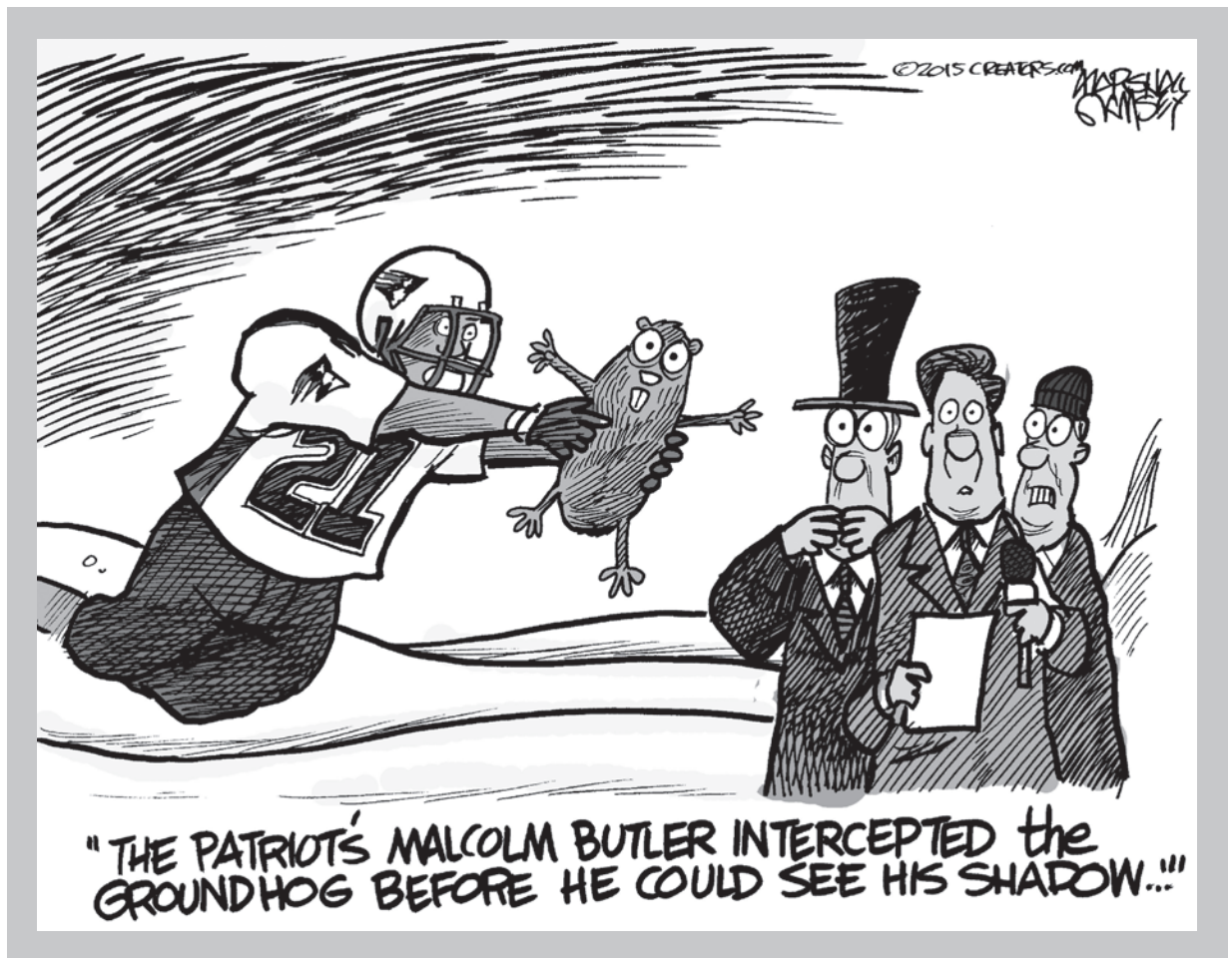
The other nominees were JoAnne Beilke, Scott Coburn, John Honey and Jim Taylor.

Audrey Butler bestowed the President's Award on Dan Clem, who oversees the organization's Economic Development and Governmental Affairs Committee. Clem, who served for 12 years on the Salem City Council, is moving to Keizer. The award is given at the discretion of the president to a person who has had a major impact on the chamber.

Is Keizer just lucky to have so many people who volunteer selflessly to better their community? Luck has something to do with it, but more than that Keizer has designed itself as a city that relies on volunteers. Success attracts success and those who want to do good work have plenty of role models to emulate here in the Iris Capital of the World.

Congratulations to all the winners and the nominees.

—LAZ



## The public good vs. individual freedom

By MICHAEL GERSON

The measles outbreak at California's Disneyland—which has spread like pixie dust—along with several other smaller flare-ups, has health officials warning of worse to come. Preventable infectious disease is making its return to the developed world—this time by invitation.

The scientific consensus on measles is effectively unanimous: (1) It is not trivial. Children with measles can get seriously ill, and there is chance of complications such as middle ear infections, pneumonia and encephalitis. (2) Measles is highly transmissible—one of the easiest viruses to get or give. (3) The measles vaccine is highly effective—one of the most successful against any virus or microbe.

I'll turn "(4)" over to Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: "The 'evidence' that measles vaccination is associated with serious adverse events such as autism and other afflictions," Fauci told me, "has been completely discredited by a number of independent scientific bodies."

Yet, a significant minority of parents—often well-educated parents—are opting out of vaccination. Many states (including California) make it relatively easy to refuse vaccination for "philosophic" reasons. This does not, I suspect, mean that people are reading Immanuel Kant or John Stuart Mill; it means they are consuming dodgy sources on the Internet.

Resistance to vaccination on the left often reflects an obsession with purity. Vaccines are placed in the same mental category as GMOs, DDT and gluten. But the problem with organic health care is that the "natural" rate of child mortality is unacceptably high. Or-

### other views

ganically raised children can get some very nasty diseases.

Opposition to vaccination on the right often reflects an obsession with liberty—in this case, freedom from intrusive state mandates. It has always struck me as odd that a parent would defend his or her children with a gun but leave them vulnerable to a microbe. Some conservatives get especially exercised when vaccination has anything to do with sex—as with the HPV vaccine—on the questionable theory that teenagers are more likely to fornicate if they have a medical permission slip (or less likely to without it).

Whether hipsters or homeschoolers, parents who don't vaccinate are free riders. Their children benefit from herd immunity without assuming the very small risk of adverse reaction to vaccination. It is a game that works—until too many play it.

Herd immunity requires about 90 percent vaccine coverage. Some children with highly vulnerable immune systems—say, a child being treated for leukemia—can't be vaccinated for medical reasons. When the number of non-medical exemptions from vaccination gets large enough, the child with leukemia becomes the most vulnerable to the spread of disease.

The government (in this case, state governments) has the responsibility to keep vaccination rates above 90 percent, which benefits everyone. This requires burdening the freedom of parents in a variety of ways—not putting them in jail if they refuse to vaccinate, but denying them some public good

(like public education) and subjecting them to stigma (which they generally deserve). As the rate of vaccination goes lower, the level of coercion must increase—making exemptions more difficult and burdensome to secure (as California needs to do).

This issue is important in itself. It also demonstrates a point that is properly called "philosophic." Vaccination is communitarianism in its purest, laboratory form. The choices of citizens are restricted for a clearly (even mathematically) defined social good.

Things get murkier with other kinds of goods. Does the same coercive power apply to chronic diseases involving lifestyle choices? Government has taken a position against the use of tobacco. What of substances such as sugar, salt and saturated fat?

Does the common good extend to the moral and social health of a community? Maybe just to the moral health of people under 21 or 18 who can't buy or consume certain things? How about prostitution, which degrades women and men (even as willing participants) and results in a squalid social atmosphere? How about the legal availability of concentrated forms of THC?

In all these matters, there is a balance between individual rights and the common good. This may sound commonplace. But some Americans seem to believe that the mere assertion of a right is sufficient to end a public argument. It is not, when the exercise of that right has unacceptable public consequences, or when the sum of likely choices is dangerous to a community. Sometimes we need 90 percent of the public to make the right choice, or innocent people suffer.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

## CERT needs members

To the Editor:

Keizer CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) will be holding their spring training class beginning Thursday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m. The classes will run eight weeks from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Community Room at the Keizer Fire Station, 661 Chemawa Rd. N.

The cost is \$60 and will include training, a backpack, helmet, vest and various supplies.

Keizer CERT is a non-profit organization with the primary purpose of providing assistance to our community in the event of an emergency, man-made or natural disaster. The CERT program is organized under FEMA, which provides the framework of training. We work closely with Keizer Fire District, Marion County Emergency Management, surrounding CERT teams, city of Keizer and other organizations. Our members come from all walks of life, from young adult to retired. No experience needed, just a willing spirit.

You may have seen our bright yellow CERT trailer out in the community. In 2014, we provided informational booths, traffic control and/or medical assistance at the Keizer Iris Festival, RIVERfair, Brooks Steam Up, CycleCross, Oktoberfest, and worked with many other community groups. We also received training and provided support for our local firefighters in a "Burn to Learn" exercise, support at Keizer Fire Department's open house, help with warming shelters, snow removal and numerous other community events.

Our fundraising to cover the on-going costs of classes, equipment, medical supplies and other necessities, come from donations, our community garage sale, and grants from the community. We wouldn't be here to help our community in a disaster if it wasn't for the generosity of our community donors. If you would like to sign up for our March training class, make a tax deductible contribution, or find out how you can contribute to the on-going mission of Keizer CERT, please see our website at [www.KeizerCERT.org](http://www.KeizerCERT.org) or call 503-910-3993.

Lori Shepard Lamb  
Keizer

### letters

## Ethics

To the Editor:

What is going on in Oregon? We have a person in the governor's chair that lacks scruples and good judgment.

Governor Kitzhaber's continuing episode with Cylvia Hayes is mind-boggling. He claims he was blind sided about her past when it appeared in a newspaper article. The article pointed out her sordid background about marrying an Ethiopian so he could obtain a green card and her desire to grow illegal pot on a Washington farm, among other things. That was some time ago. What amazes me is he continued their relationship and is even sharing the governor's office and who knows what else, with this woman. Well, he is in love.

Using the governor's office to gain \$180,000 of outside work is a conflict of interest, I would think. How long does the Ethics Commission need to decide to investigate and determine wrong doing? Remember three of the seven members on the commission are appointed by the governor. No doubt Ms. Hayes is pretty, smart and ambitious but she has no regards for the law.

People around the governor knew he was allowing something unethical to happen but did not come forward. This happens all of the time as no political party is exempt. There are too many people in power positions that think they can brush the law aside. All too many times these people use attorneys' advice to justify their actions. It appears these attorneys will provide the person in power with whatever answer the person desires. This occurred in the White House and state capitals around the country. It is not uncommon to see national and state elective officials use the excuse, "My lawyer told me it was alright."

It will be interesting to see how the Democrat-controlled legislature deals with an unethical governor. I never thought of Cylvia Hayes as Oregon's first lady. First Girlfreind maybe, but not first lady. I may have been wrong because she may be the first lady in the governors' office to go to federal prison for tax evasion. Forgetting to put \$180,000 of earnings on your income tax is no accident.

Bill Quinn  
Keizer

## After Mitt: A GOP message of sound growth

By LAWRENCE KUDLOW

In his announcement that he will not be running for president in 2016, he stated, "I believe that one of our next generation of Republican leaders, one who may not be as well known as I am today, one who has not yet taken their message across the country, one who is just getting started, may well emerge as being better able to defeat the Democrat nominee."

This was unusual political humility. But let me highlight this specific phrase: "one who has not yet taken their message across the country."

If there's anything the GOP needs—besides a winner—it's a confident, incentive-based, pro-growth message. The party didn't have one last year, but it won the midterms thanks to President Obama's ineptness. That won't be enough in 2016.

The fourth-quarter GDP report, just out, illustrates the importance of a growth message. GDP came in at a disappointing 2.6 percent, way below expectations. For the year, only 2.5 percent growth.

All is not lost. The job numbers are better and there's welcome relief from crumbling energy prices and a strong dollar. Consumer confidence has improved. Our resilient free-market economy is trying to plow ahead.

If the economy were unshackled of rising taxes and regulations, and if there was a new long-run commitment to sound money and free trade, we could unleash a new American prosperity. Negativism would turn into optimism, and America's global leadership position would be restored.

Unfortunately, while Romney was great at rescuing companies, he ran a poor political campaign. There was no

### guest column

clear growth message. As John Tamny reminds in a recent column, Obama care was modeled on Romney-

care; Romney talked of a trade war with China, throwing off strong signals of a weaker dollar; Romney never made clear how he would limit government spending; and while he had a reasonably good tax-cut plan, he rarely discussed it.

Ultimately, Romney's highly flawed message was unpersuasive to voters. Now, the 2016 GOP candidate must have a strong growth message.

Somebody on the campaign trail should also talk about money. *New York Sun* editor Seth Lipsky points out that the GOP platform last time around called for a monetary commission to look at a metallic standard, yet Romney never mentioned sound money.

The Fed ran completely amok with its QE program. It ballooned its balance sheet by more than \$4 trillion, yet there was no sustainable pickup in real or nominal GDP. Actually, this monetarist failure was a good thing: If the turnover, or velocity, of money had been stable, instead of crashing, today's inflation rate would be 15 percent rather than practically zero.

So the next Republican candidate should state a desire for the Fed to return to a market-based discipline using gold, commodities, dollar-exchange value and bond-market indicators. Contrary to conventional wisdom, the King Dollar comeback, along with falling energy prices, has not only delivered a tax-cut effect to consum-

ers, it's reduced all business production costs, making the economy more competitive. GOP candidates should not be afraid to talk sound money. It's pro-growth.

They also must focus laser-like on the importance of incentives to grow the economy. For instance, rather than propose spending roughly \$1.6 trillion on child tax credits (according to the Tax Policy Center), Senator Marco Rubio, an otherwise sound thinker, would be better advised to propose a flattening of marginal tax rates to perhaps 15 and 28 percent. This would give everyone in the middle class larger tax savings and stronger incentives to keep more of the extra dollar they earn.

President Obama doesn't understand that taxing capital is a negative for new businesses, jobs, incomes and family spending. But Republicans should make darn sure they have a completely different vision.

And the GOP must recognize it can't outbid the Democrats on lower- or middle-class benefits. Instead, they can talk incentives: If it pays more to work than to collect food stamps, or unemployment insurance, more people will work. The incentive model carries over to education and health care, where choice should be maximized. And Romney is right about this: Marriage is a key answer to poverty.

We're about a year away from the first Republican primaries. The GOP has a solid bench. But the wannabes must get cracking on the central growth message of incentives, freedom of choice and sound money to unleash a new wave of American prosperity.

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