

# KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Fire board candidate outlines goals

To the Editor:

When I retired from full-time employment I was determined to get involved again with the Keizer community. This led to my appointment to the Keizer Fire District Budget Committee and joining the Keizer Fire District Citizens' Advisory Committee. Attending Budget Committee meetings and board of director meetings, as well as reading through monthly board meeting agenda packets, fostered a desire for a deeper involvement with the Keizer Fire District, so I decided to run for the Board of Directors, position number 3.

During a career of successful financial management and leading strategic planning processes for a multi-million dollar organization, I learned the value of establishing goals and procedures to facilitate the work effort. If I'm elected to the Keizer Fire District Board of Directors, these will be my guiding principles:

1. Maintain Keizer's ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating of 2. A change to a higher rating would increase fire insurance rates.
2. Maintain a strong volunteer program. This helps keep our tax rates low.
3. Maintain the current 95 percent emergency response times of six minutes or less, and retain staffing and equipment at adequate levels.
4. Continue the district's involvement in events such as the Iris Festival and city planning such as pre-construction plan reviews and traffic route changes.
5. Involve all stakeholders in the strategic process to maintain or improve disaster planning (floods, storms, earthquakes) and fire prevention services.

I would appreciate your vote in the coming May elections.

Chet Patterson  
Keizer

## Support for Chet Patterson

To the Editor:

I support Chet Patterson for Position 3 of the Keizer Fire District Board of Directors. He and his family have been part of the community since 1978, and Chet has been part of Keizer "from the ground up." He co-authored the feasibility study that led to the successful incorporation of Keizer in 1982 and was twice elected to the City Council, serving as the city's first budget officer during his first term.

Chet and his wife, Chris, have contributed much to Keizer over the years. Their daughter and her family live in Keizer; their son is a Seattle firefighter. So Chet understands firsthand the safety and equipment needs of fire department personnel.

Chet is a man of great integrity and his extensive career in financial planning and budgets will enhance the fiscal responsibility of the board. He recently retired as the CFO of Menonite Village (a retirement community) in Albany and was vice president of administration and finance at Western Baptist College (now Corban University) in Salem before that.

His background in finance and firsthand acquaintance with the needs of firefighters, along with his years of civic involvement, make him the ideal candidate to fill this position.

Susan Miholer  
Keizer

To the Editor:

I will vote for Chet Patterson, fire district position 3 because he has earned it. Not content with merely helping to found Keizer he has worked to make this a better town ever since. He is driven to learn all sides of the issues and has the unique professional qualifications to choose the best path. His dedication to maintaining the livability and safety of Keizer can-

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not be doubted. I am not smart enough to understand all these civic questions, but Chet is.

Don Vowell  
Keizer

## Support for Jim Taylor

To the Editor:

I have served with Jim Taylor on the Keizer City Council and on many committees and task forces. Over the years I have learned that Mr. Taylor always puts Keizer residents first, steps up to help when asked, and keeps an open mind to find creative ways to get the best bang for the buck.

Mr. Taylor has a wealth of knowledge and experience from his lifetime spent in Keizer as a coach, mentor, city councilor, fisherman, Rotarian, dedicated volunteer, small business owner and much more. His well rounded experiences allow him to understand the needs, wants, and financial limitations of Keizer residents throughout our community. For these reasons I am very confident that he will make an excellent board member. Please join me in voting for Jim Taylor for the Keizer Fire District Board of Directors.

Richard Walsh  
Keizer

## State should go slow on speed increase

To the Editor:

As the Oregon legislature races toward increasing speed limits (pun intended), they need to back off for a moment and think about the unintended consequences that will follow.

How about this: Let's talk about funding the Oregon State Police with the goal of hiring a few hundred troopers to regain the strength the Department had during the 1980s. That will take a couple of years to hire and train them for the increased workload they will face covering the accidents that are sure to come. And then let's talk about enforcement. The truth is 75 will become 85, because that is what many drivers will take. Those traveling between 75 and 84 will probably skate because the troopers will keep busy with the 85 and above. After all, the goal should be about safety, not raising revenue.

Here's another thought: ODOT is in the process of installing protective cables to reduce the risk of cross over accidents on divided highways. Why don't we put in place those safety cables before we increase those speeds?

And finally, a word about the difference between 65 and 75 miles per hour when you're in a crash. If you were to close your eyes and run, not sprint, straight ahead into your living room wall, you'd hit the wall at about 10 mph. Then you would know the difference 10 mph makes.

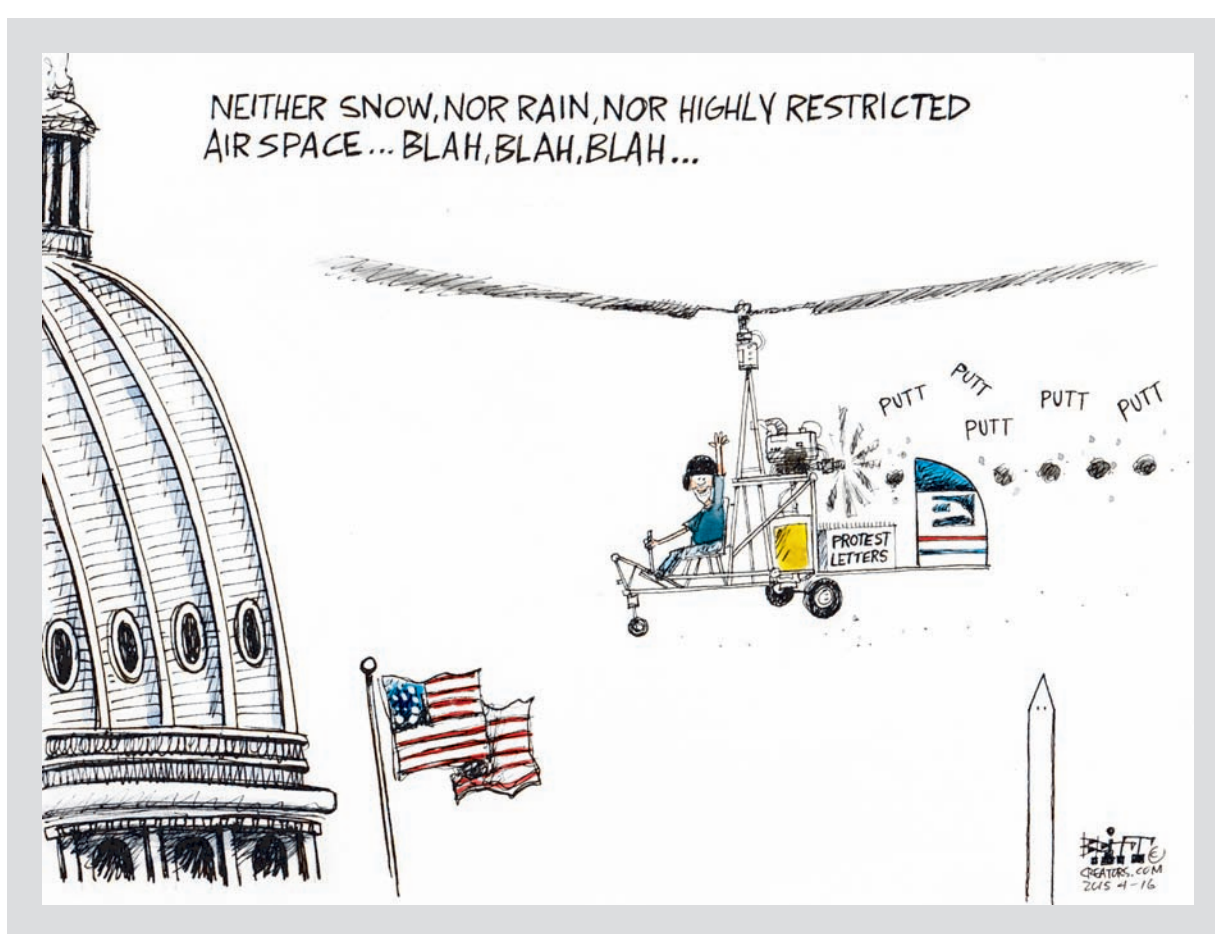
So let's put in place measures that will minimize the outcomes that are sure to follow, then increase the speeds. It's better than ready, fire, aim.

Wayne A. Moreland  
Keizer

## Ktimes editorial, story disrespectful

To the Editor:

We have had the great honor to volunteer in Keizer for many years and are so very grateful to live in a city that supports and appreciates the people who give so much of their precious time and talents. This is why we were so disappointed in Craig Murphy's very negative and inappropriate comments about Joe Egli and others in the editorial (*Candidates deserve more*, April 17) and in the Iris Festival article (*Brewfest for Keizerfest?*, April 17). You certainly have every right to state your opinion in that column but we would like to state ours



## Mission is not accomplished

Not known for his intellect, George W. Bush was remarkable for his ability to make prophetic statements on at least one occasion. On May 1, 2003, after landing by small jet aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and standing under a banner that read "Mission Accomplished," then-President Bush heralded "the arrival of a new era."

He also announced that "major combat operations in Iraq have ended," yet, we know now, that, nearly 12 years later, in 2015, a new president, having served almost five years, combat operations in the Middle East in 2003 had barely begun. We're nowadays into a bombing regimen in Iraq and Syria that appears far from finished. So, President Bush was right that, by way of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, a new era had gotten underway.

Bush's neoconservative regime supporters thought the moment on the deck of the U.S. carrier launched a new order in the Middle East, the start of another 50 years of American domination that got underway in 1953 when the CIA overthrew democratically elected Iranian prime minister Mohammad Mosaddegh and replaced him with the hopelessly corrupt Shah so U.S. oil interests could get their hands on the wells there and control their flow. Then, too, those folks were looking to end Syria's Bashar al-Assad and crush Iran's fundamentalists.

It may be that the last laughs on us as we are shocked and awed with what's come of our involvement in the Middle East. Instead, rather than what was anticipated by the true believers under the auspices of Bush

as well because we couldn't disagree with you more.

Your editorial comment about Joe taking 20 minutes out of the Chamber meeting was petty and personal as well as just not true. Dan Clem did a great job of keeping everyone on schedule. We enjoyed the meeting and the forum by which the candidates were presented. We are Keizer and we love that we do things differently here. You also seemed to think you should throw Chuck Lee and the Chamber itself under the bus for not presenting things the way you thought it should go. Our business has been a proud member of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce since its inception and it has, and always will be, a conduit for communication to our city. We hope they continue presenting these kinds of meetings where candidates can be real people sitting with us common folks and speaking from the heart instead of the podium.

We hope our passionate volunteers and hard-working politicians will continue to serve our city and know how appreciated they are. Thank you for all you do! We certainly support differences of opinions and constructive reporting but it is a sad day when our own newspaper chooses to disrespect its wonderful volunteers, its Chamber of Commerce and politicians.

Mary Bauer Opra, Tom Bauer, Dave Bauer  
Keizer

## Chamber forum flowed as planned

To the Editor:

Re: *Candidates deserved more*, editorial, April 17:

I would ask Mr. Craig Murphy to read the information provided on our Chamber website. Our calendar excerpt states: The hour and half of net-

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of deaths by sectarian struggle, and the prospect of domination by ISIS that seeks a caliphate dictatorship. Only two nations, Saudi Arabia, whose kingdom is into a state of high anxiety and whose bombing missions in Yemen are mostly disturbing desert dust, and Iran, the real winner in all that's happened and whose rise to ascendancy no longer has a rival in the Middle East.

It's certain that if the agreement between the U.S. and Iran comes to fruition it is sure to enhance Iran's status as a powerhouse. It weakens Israel, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States. For the last dozen years, the U.S. has demonstrated ill-coordinated efforts interspersed by the short-term flaying around of ill-conceived and downright stupid moves: We helped Iran by what we did in Iraq and there could be nothing more bone-headed and sure to bring defeat after defeat than to take sides in the 1400-years war between Islam's Sunni and Shia factions. Keep in mind that the U.S. is seen as a modern-day Christian crusader while U.S. troops are viewed as infidels.

We should have, could have, learned from Vietnam. Now we've returned for what may be called Iraq War 2, or is it Iraq War 3? For example our humanitarian effort last year to

and Cheney, we have a nearly totally fragmented Middle East with ongoing, out-of-control conflicts, thousands

save the Yazidi people from destruction into a full-scale bombing of Syria and Iraq. And former generals like the disgraced David Petraeus is back giving advice and hawks like Dick Cheney are ecstatically happy. Meanwhile, Americans and America are less trusted than ever and more and more Arabs hate us and seek our demise.

All that's happening is timely for Iran. Iran is recognized as an ethnically stable nation that's religiously, culturally and linguistically homogeneous with its minorities and has them under control. Iran remains governed by its clerics but has evolving democratic transitions at the secular level. It's been able to do okay economically by selling its oil to Asian nations. Iran does not fear an Islamic revolution as it had one that succeeded three dozen years ago.

Iran's leaders know their country could never go fully nuclear without ensuring catastrophic destruction through Israeli nuclear strikes. So, trading progress on developing nuclear weapons for the removal of sanctions is a darn good deal for them.

The U.S. has done a great favor for Iran. While we've practiced occupying lands in the Middle East at staggering costs in American lives and treasury, Iran's climb to top dog status in their part of the world has been to collect client states, support proxy fighters and align governments and their military potential as allies. They are Shia over Sunni. George was right, it is a new era.

(Gene McIntyre's column appears weekly in the *Keizertimes*.)

working, lunch table talk, and introductions is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Keizer Quality Suites located at 5188

Wittenberg Lane NE, Keizer.

Due potentially to having 22 candidates attend this brief luncheon, candidates offered in writing their response to our question sent in advance to them: "How will your position help Keizer businesses?" The Keizer Chamber published and distributed their replies on a "Candidate Flyer" at the luncheon.

The Chamber is diligent in recognizing candidates and businesses owners at these networking luncheons. Those candidates who attended were grateful to have the time to be recognized, to be heard and were happy to meet business owners. And the attending public, seemed to be informed and appreciative as well.

And we, your Keizer Chamber of Commerce, are grateful for all of the candidates' willingness to step up and help to keep Keizer safe, economically

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strong, and moving forward.

Audrey Butler  
President, Keizer Chamber of Commerce

## Candidate forum

To the Editor:

When invited to the Keizer Chamber's "Meet the May Primary Election Candidates" presentation my invitation notified me that there would be "an hour and a half of networking, lunch table talk, and introductions." I appreciate that Mr. Craig Murphy of the *Keizertimes* believed that candidates deserved more time to speak, but the original schedule only planned for introductions. The main information about the candidates and how they would support Keizer businesses was to be in written form, which I gladly provided.

The reduced time for the introductions was caused by an unintended lengthy presentation, to be sure, but the overall purpose of the luncheon was achieved. And the food was superb!

Colleen Busch  
Keizer

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