

KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Keizer City Council

There are elections for mayor and three city councilors next month. All but one of the four races have candidates running unopposed. That has been the trend in the city for the past several election cycles.

editorial

funding for the parks and is hopeful that community involvement will help maintain parks and she is amendable to a bond measure to operate them. She thinks Keizer Police Dept. is doing a fantastic job and they are doing

well with community relations and safety.

Allen Barker thinks that police are more necessary than parks. He says that adding police officers will relieve stress on the current roster of active cops.

Barker and Reid both want to attract more business to Keizer, especially on River Road. Barker favors mixed used development on the city's main thoroughfare, Reid would like to see more office space.

Engaging the public in city matters is important to both candidates. Barker would like the city to have a phone app for citizens to give their feedback on any issue. Reid says it is important to go where the people are who don't generally step forward or get involved to better understand their perspectives.

Though evenly matched on issues, we endorse Laura Reid for city council position #1.

She will bring important aspects to the council: she works with our children every day as a teacher. She wants to be a voice not a rubber-stamp—that's important regarding the issues the city will face in the next four years.

By electing Reid to the city council Keizer wins: it will get a new voice on the council and Allan Barker will remain on the Keizer Budget Committee where his knowledge and experience will be an important voice.

—LAZ

The one contested race is for the council seat currently held by Mark Caillier, who was appointed to the post this summer to fill a vacancy left by Dennis Koho's resignation. Caillier is not seeking a full term.

Keizer city government's only contested race is between Laura Reid, a McNary High School teacher and Allen Barker, a retired businessman and member of the Keizer Budget Committee. It has been a quiet, courteous race thus far; there is no hot-button Keizer issue that is getting the candidates—let alone voters—riled up. Yet, we remind Keizer voters that every election is important.

Neither Barker nor Reid are politicians, they are citizens who see an opportunity to affect the future of Keizer.

We laud citizens who give their time and expertise to serve on commissions, boards and task forces in their community, especially those who put their names on a ballot for a post that pays no money and takes a hefty amount of time for reading reports and attending meetings that are key to setting policy for Keizer.

The immediate issue the council will face in 2017 is funding two areas that are essential to the Keizer way of life: public safety and public parks. Many are angry when mandated expenditures take money that they want used to add a few police officers or maintain our parks.

Laura Reid supports sustainable



Descending into ideological psychosis

By MICHAEL GERSON

Given even the lowest expectations, Donald Trump still has the capacity to surprise.

In recent days, Trump has sneered at the looks of a woman who accuses him of sexual assault, denigrated the appearance of Hillary Clinton, proposed to drug test his opponent, used his campaign to promote what appears to be a Russian covert operation, asserted that Clinton has held secret meetings with international bankers “to plot the destruction of U.S. sovereignty,” attacked *Saturday Night Live*, promised to jail his opponent and contended that “the whole election is being rigged.”

Which means that Trump is sickeningly cruel, boorish, bonkers, subversive, conspiratorial, obsessive, authoritarian and reckless with the reputation of American democracy.

This is quite a closing argument for a presidential candidate. I imagine it did not emerge from focus groups. So what does all of this mean?

(1) It means that the Republican nominee for president is frighteningly unstable under pressure. He is easily baited, highly sensitive to slights, prone to using faulty information from off the internet, hyperbolic and vengeful. Now imagine those characteristics during a confrontation with China in the South China Sea.

(2) It is an indication of the quality of his closest, non-family advisers. Stephen Bannon and Rudy Giuliani are not attempting to keep Trump in check. They are feeding his manias. Trump is completely unmoored from restraining influences, and would be as president.

(3) Trump's closing case is a ver-

other views

sion, not of movement conservatism or tea party conservatism, but of crackpot conservatism—a

an alt-right rage against a vast, scheming establishment that includes the liberal media, global financiers and a growing list of women making accusations of sexual assault. All this was previewed during Trump's political rise, which included birtherism, vaccine denialism and insinuations of foul play in the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. GOP leaders can hardly pretend to be surprised by this bent.

(4) It is a further indication that Trump has no commitment to the American political system. He is perfectly willing to delegitimize democratic institutions as a campaign tactic, squandering a civic inheritance he does not value. Even before his current troubles, he said that an electoral loss would be *prima facie* evidence of fraud and encouraged supporters to monitor majority-black polling stations in Pennsylvania.

(5) Trump's descent into ideological psychosis is tainting the reputation of all who were foolish enough to associate with him. Consider his running mate Mike Pence. Interviewed recently on “Face the Nation,” he defended the Republican nominee's verbal assault—Trump has called them “sick,” “horrible” and “phony”—on women who accuse Trump of sexual assault. This reaction is justified, Pence said, because of Clinton's “deplorable” comment.

Here is one of the chief promoters of Christian morality in politics employing the ethical reasoning of 9-year-olds in the schoolyard. Someday Pence (and others) will look back on their shattered standards and ask: For this cause? For this man?

(6) Trump's final appeal is also corrupting a portion of the public and crossing moral lines that won't be easily uncrossed. There are certain qualities of heart and mind that allow for self-government—civility, tolerance and mutual respect. Trump is inviting Americans to drink from a poisoned well. The broader result is radical polarization in which citizens question the legitimacy of elections and view some fellow citizens as enemies.

(7) Practically, Trump's downward spiral means that House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus will need to repudiate the nominee before the end—after they have shed the last of their credibility. The political argument against repudiation is admittedly strong. It could ignite a self-destructive civil war within the GOP just before an election. But history generally does not remember good political arguments. It remembers acts of conscience in the face of them. It is time, and past time, for Republican leaders to do the right thing.

Trump's crackup complicates American political life in a variety of ways but simplifies one point: This man is temperamentally, ideologically and morally unfit to be president of the United States.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

Never Hillary

To the Editor:

On Jan. 13, 2013, Hillary Clinton said, “What difference, at this point, does it make?”

Here are four reasons why Hillary Clinton shouldn't be elected president: Ambassador Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods.

Hillary lied after those four Americans died.

Renee Dick Salem

letters

publicly and by his actions. Thank you E.J. Dionne Jr. for your article. (*A vicious presidential debate*, Keizertimes, Oct. 14).

Kristine Adams Keizer

Not all rosy at new Starbucks

To the Editor:

It appears those of us who like to meet friends and settle in for a cozy chat are out of luck at the new Starbucks. There is not nearly enough parking close to the door, and the alternative is parking that involves a hike—not a pleasant prospect in our nasty weather.

Inside it is quite loud, making it difficult to hear the friend sitting across the table. Some kind of sound-dampening materials are needed. I'm sure the brisk drive-thru business more than makes this business model quite profitable and all of the things cited above make me think that's all they cared about with this design, including the lack of parking.

Gone are the days of being able to walk just steps between your car and the front door and stepping inside a buzzing (but not loud) coffee shop to meet friends.

Sue Miholer Keizer

A vicious debate indeed

To the Editor:

For once a semi-positive letter about Hillary Clinton. I am sick of the witch hunt on Hillary Clinton. The Republicans have created scandals when there has been none. They make up false accusations and have a presidential candidate that says he is going to jail her when no criminal charges have never been found.

Compare that to Donald Trump who has actually bragged about unwanted sexual acts against several women. This is more likely to bring criminal charges. He is a sexist, racist, bigoted creep. He is disliked by latinos, blacks, Muslims, women and anyone with half a brain. Poll numbers prove this, his own comments he makes



Measure 97 taxes would even things out

gene h. mcintyre

way of corporate speak, they say they want to ship their products into and all around Oregon but quietly let the little guy in the

state pay for everything from which they benefit while their profits are pocketed to the personal advantage of big corporation CEOs and their executive subordinates.

Of course, those who invest—the stockholders—and those who run the national corporations should receive compensation that makes the risks worthwhile and keep the American economic engine reasonably healthy and viable. However, free-reigning capitalism, a condition seldom known in the U.S. anymore because of federal subsidies to the big corporations, cannot be tolerated in a country that got used to enjoying

a strong middle class during the last century. The people of this state additionally subsidize the national corporations that operate here, affording them nearly tax-free status while those families and individuals living here pay their way and get stuck with all the bills in the process.

What's going on now with Oregon's lowest-in-the-nation taxation of corporations is not right and it is not helping to preserve a democracy when only corporations can enjoy the American dream via a good life. It is high time we Oregonians do something about our plight in spite of our legislators and rock and roll that ballot to read “Yes” on Measure 97. Otherwise, the national corporations view us as a bunch of easy pushovers as they get their surrogates by TV ads and mailers to create a ruse over false claims of a hidden sales tax while a “no” vote falls for it.

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

Every so often, Oregonians experience an Elvis Presley moment—when almost everyone is “all shook up” and these shake ups almost always take place over proposals to raise taxes. Our illustrious legislature cannot come to grip the matter with any consequences, mainly, because they are too often more concerned about keeping their capital jobs than behaving like statesmen. Hence, in recent years all they can agree on is to try to take money away from those former state workers who kept things going and are now retired PERS' beneficiaries.

What happens in the vacuum is that Oregonians who want to realize progress in this state must use the initiative process to stop the hemorrhaging in critical areas such as public education, health care and services for seniors. At the same time, the observer wonders how it is that grown-up voters in Oregon fail to realize that they subsidize the large corporations, their customers and stockholders, that realize big profits in Oregon. These corporations use our roads, bridges, and so many other publicly financed services but make almost no contribution by taxation to the care and maintenance of these and other public facilities and services. Further, they expect well-educated and technically-trained people here to employ and create a good place to live but do not want to help pay the costs.

Does Donald Trump represent all these corporate types throughout the nation? Trump says he's smart not to pay taxes and apparently sets the pace by modern day American corporations to relocate their headquarters overseas and shelter income elsewhere. Infrastructure concerns? By



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