

KeizerOpinion

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Men of the hour

The Keizer Chamber of Commerce held its annual award banquet last Saturday, honoring four men who have played an outsized role in the community.

James Trett was announced as Keizer's First Citizen for 2016. He stepped up to the microphone to thunderous applause from the attendees, with a shocked, yet humble look on his face.

Trett's biggest impact over the past four decades has been his work with Keizer's youth. His work as the Keizer Fire District's public education officer brought him in contact with students at schools. Growing from that role Trett soon was teaching first aid and CPR to kids.

His work with kids did not stop when he left the public education post. Whiteaker Middle School was his second home as he assisted with the choir program and other duties around the school. The Chamber recognized him the first time in 2006 when he was presented with the Service to Education award.

Keizer is what it is because of people exactly like Jim Trett. He is a person who always asks "How can I help?" Like all good volunteers, Trett does what he does out of duty and passion, not recognition.

His quiet demeanor belies a fierce determination to do what is right and fair. All those that know Jim Trett personally is his friend; he'd have it no other way.

Trett's choice as the First Citizen was the right pick for this or any other year. Just as he has inspired decades of Keizer youth, he inspires Keizer's grown-ups to do their duty and do their best.

Saturday's award banquet was an evening of inspired choices. Bob Shackleford, local realtor, was named as Merchant of the Year. He was chosen for his volunteer work in many areas but especially with a group he

now leads: Men of Action in Keizer (MAK), the counterpart to the Keizer Network of Women (KNOW).

Shackleford is constantly on the watch for projects MAK can do to help the community, organizations or individuals. No project is too small. From clearing brush and weeds to creating better sightlines for drivers, to assisting a widow of a late veteran, Shackleford rouses the group of men to do what needs to be done—all without any benefit to himself. That's the definition of winner.

Keizer's Mr. Christmas, Dave Walery, received his second President's Award (the only person to have won the same honor more than once). The award was selected and presented by Chamber president Scott White.

White cited Walery's non-stop volunteer work that benefits Keizer and its residents from installing the Christmas lights on River Road to co-chairing the Keizer Iris Festival. His position on the Chamber board of directors allows him to bring his common sense business acumen to the table.

Another person who has had major influence on Keizer kids is Larry Smith, who was honored with the Service to Education Award. Smith was a long-time football and softball coach at the club and school level. His early works with youth football led, eventually, to McNary High School winning two state championships in four years.

Tough but passionate, Smith's unwritten motto could easily be: never let winning get in the way of right and wrong. He taught his teams, at every level, the importance of playing the game fairly over any trophies or ribbons. A lesson that should still be very much in vogue.

Along with the Chamber of Commerce, the Keizer community congratulates all the deserving winners. They all bring to life our city's motto of pride, spirit and volunteerism.

—LAZ

editorial



Why millions gather to say 'no'

By E.J. DIONNE JR.

Within 48 hours, we learned that Donald John Trump intends to govern as the same fiercely angry man who shook the country in 2016. He confirmed that his administration intends to show no regard for norms—or facts.

His opposition has drawn the obvious conclusion. Its only options are to contain the damage Trump can do, to restrain him in his use of power, and, eventually, to defeat him.

In his inaugural address, Trump offered no outreach to his adversaries with a take-no-prisoners message. They heard it, and were ready to return the favor. Saturday's Women's March on Washington and its counterparts in cities and towns across the country drew millions who signaled plainly that they would not be cowed into silence or demobilized into a sullen indifference.

There was a jubilation in the Washington gathering because so many were grateful to each other for showing up in such large numbers. Those who had spent January 20th in gloom spent January 21st experiencing a sense of relief: In the face of the political troubles to come, they would have allies and friends ready to act.

If power shifted decisively on Friday to Donald Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress, passion switched sides as well. As the marches showed, the political energy in the country is now arrayed against Trump and his agenda.

Republicans no longer have Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton to kick around. For years, they were able to direct the country's discontents toward a president they loathed and

then a Democratic nominee they disliked even more.

With control of both elected branches, the GOP, including Trump, is the Establishment. Over time, this will make the faux populist anti-Establishment appeal of Trump's inaugural address ring empty.

It was a speech that offered a dark and gloomy view that cast the world's richest nation as a victim of the rest of the world. He spoke of "carnage" in the country and declared:

"We must protect our borders from the ravages of other countries making our products, stealing our companies, and destroying our jobs."

Trump invoked a radical nationalism not heard from any president of either party in the post-World War II era. His doctrine owes far more to the ideology of European Far Right movements favored by his senior advisor Steve Bannon than to the views of American presidents from Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy to Ronald Reagan, both George Bushes and Barack Obama.

"We will seek friendship and goodwill with the nations of the world," Trump said, "but we do so with the understanding that it is the right of all nations to put their own interests first." If some might see this as refreshing honesty about how countries actually behave, it was hard to escape the idea that Trump's "America First" doctrine foreshadowed a willingness to destroy international systems, built in large part by the United States, that have, on the whole, protected us and advanced our values.

And for those who worry about Trump's devotion to democratic val-

ues, there was this disconcerting sentence: "We must speak our minds openly, debate our disagreements honestly, but always pursue solidarity."

Solidarity is wonderful. But the word can look like a threat when used in a way that seems to subordinate free speech and open debate. More disquieting, the nature of this solidarity will be defined by a man who now possesses awesome powers and has shown only disrespect for his foes and for an independent media.

By Saturday, Trump and his press secretary Sean Spicer had ratified these concerns. Expressing rage at the media for pointing out how relatively small Trump's crowds were—a hint of how shallow his movement's roots might be—both Spicer and Trump lied outright in exaggerating the numbers of those who attended Trump's inauguration in comparison with the throngs that celebrated Obama's.

Challenged Sunday by Chuck Todd of NBC's "Meet the Press" as to why Spicer was asked to go to the podium and offer falsehoods, Kellyanne Conway, Trump's senior counselor, came up with a soundbite that George Orwell might have been embarrassed to include in "1984." It will go down as a defining phrase of the Trump presidency.

"Sean Spicer, our press secretary," she replied, "gave alternative facts."

"Alternative facts?" an astonished Todd exclaimed, and then he spoke the truth: "Alternative facts are not facts. They're falsehoods."

Fear of a presidency willing to declare that up is down and down is up is why so many rallied to say a very loud no.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

Rarin' to go in 2017

On January 9, 2017, I took the oath of office as state representative from House District 25 (Keizer, St. Paul and Newberg) for the second time. I can assure you that other than the fact I had some kind of flu virus, the thrill was not one iota less than it was the first time in 2015. To stand with 59 other citizens from all over the state of Oregon, citizens who decided to take the plunge and jump into public office, some for the first time, some for the 10th time, all willing to put aside family and free time to serve this state and its citizens, well, that was just a plain honor. Just as it is an honor to serve the good people of Keizer for another term.

Many ask "What's it like being on the House floor for the swearing in?" I can tell you that it is a very exciting moment when you are asked by the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, to raise your right hand and then to solemnly swear to uphold the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions. Then to sign a document saying the same and knowing that you are one of only 90 members between the House and Senate, to sign that document. It's something I will never get used to.

So what happens from here? My staff and I have moved to a new office this year and we'd love for you to come by. We are still on the third floor of the House side of the building in office 387. Once we are back in session on February 1, it will be

crazy but exciting to try to bring all the ideas that have been crafted into bills together and try to do what's best for Oregon. I can assure you I've not changed from two years ago when I first stepped into the office: I believe in less government, more freedom and a high regard for personal liberty. I will be serving on three committees this year including my second term on House Judiciary but now adding the House

Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee as well as a brand new committee called Economic Development and Trade.

I still have the nickname of "No Bills Bill" and I am trying to limit the amount of bills that I submit. At this point I have five "pre-session" bills that have now been read into the record and I have plans for three more. I'll have details on all of them at my website: www.billpost.us and I also strongly recommend the Oregon Legislative Information System website (olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/) as that site will tell you all the details of every bill and committee in both chambers. It's a great site to get to know.

I look forward to serving you again in the 2017 session and want to let you know that my office is always ready to assist you in whatever way we can.

(Bill Post represents House District 25. He can be reached at 503-986-1425 or via email at rep.billpost@state.or.us.)

from the capitol

by REP. BILL POST



other views

gene h. mcintyre

Why Cabinet nominees should be rejected

Were I ever in a position of power to take action on President Trump's cabinet nominees, I would veto some of them without any further consideration. Here are thoughts for rejection from Keizer, Oregon:

Steven Mnuchin as Secretary of Treasury. This is the same guy whose record shows that he ruthlessly foreclosed on thousands of homeowners in the ranks of middle-class Americans. Thereby, he personally realized multi-million dollar bonuses and made huge deposits of this money to his Cayman Islands' accounts. He can be counted on to support more wealth for billionaires and big corporations while it's certain from his past behavior he has little to no care for working Americans and their families.

Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education. She has proven by her record that she wants to take funds from the support of public schools and give those monies to religious and private schools. Since the early 1800s, public schools in the U.S. have afforded millions upon millions of Americans from homes without the financial means to receive at least a basic education in reading, writing and arithmetic, providing those Americans with foundations for lives of success.

Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. He has proven himself as standing with big corporations that pollute our air and water more than the fundamentally important health and safety protection of children and families in Oklahoma. In fact, he has brought suit after suit

against the EPA in an ongoing effort to take away federal powers legislated to protect all Americans. It's certain from his past that he will only protect the big polluters.

Rick Perry as Secretary of Energy.

This fellow is indisputably ambitious enough to throw integrity away and thereby say and do anything to get into a Washington, D.C. power position. Recently, he said he'd get rid of Energy if elected president but now he's willing to be in charge of it even though he openly confesses he knows nothing about what the Department of Energy does.

Jeff Sessions as Attorney General. During his public career, Jeff Sessions is reported to have used racially-charged language. He was already denied a federal judgeship because of his reputation for put downs of people

of color. Americans in majority numbers do not want a person as Attorney General who's a racist and is believed will try to take us back to the Reconstruction era after the Civil War and thereafter to the 1960s and beyond in some states.

Then there are the other nominees, the billionaires who'll get much richer at public expense and generals who'll be afforded authority for more warring overseas. Then, too, every new president in memory has said he'll clean up Washington, meanwhile, the place actually gets more corruptly bloated in every way. As the adage reads, "When you're up to your neck in alligators, it's too late to drain the swamp." With Trump's nominees, it looks an awful lot like we're in for an even worse swamp population than has been the case.

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



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