

# KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## New hand on the gavel

For the first time in 14 years a new hand will be holding the gavel at Keizer City Council meetings. By most measures Cathy Clark is the most prepared and most experienced person to ever take the oath of that office.

Clark and three councilors will be sworn on Monday night's meeting. Of those three new councilors Brandon Smith served once before and Roland Herrera worked for the city's public works department for many years. Amy Ripp will bring her enthusiasm and years of community volunteering to the council.

The spotlight will be on Mayor Clark. She takes the helm of the council after eight years as a member, which includes serving as council president. Two things will become apparent quickly for interested and casual viewers—the new mayor is whip smart and she loves her community.

Though Clark earned a masters degree at Kansas State University she says she is a life-long learner. She wants to know everything she can regardless of the topic. Her thirst for information and knowledge should not prolong council meetings, though. There is a time

to seek information and at times quizzing a witness speaking before the council is not that time. Clark will be challenged maintaining her job at the Oregon Education Investment Board and being mayor. Keizerites expect to see their mayor at community events; they expect their mayor to be conversant in all things municipal. We have confidence Clark is up to the challenge and will attack it with gusto.

We have every hope that the new mayor will be as successful as her predecessor to build coalitions, not only among the councilors but also with a variety of community groups and businesses. She can call on her eight years of serving on the council and 14 years of observing Lore Christopher deftly handling the job as guidance.

No two mayors are alike. The Lore Christopher era is over and it is now time for the Cathy Clark era as she becomes the city's sixth mayor in 32 years.

She's experienced. She's knowledgeable and she's ready. We can't ask much more from our mayor than that.

—LAZ

## KNOW thanks Keizer

To the Editor:

By now, the Christmas wrappings have been discarded. By now, almost 400 children in Keizer are enjoying the warmth of their new jackets, clothing and most importantly, are playing with their new toys.

Thank you Keizer community and swarms of volunteers who made this happen. The Keizer Network of Women (Keizer Chamber of Commerce and Foundation) are grateful for another year of the Gift Basket Program, and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

**Audrey Butler**  
Keizer

## School thanks support for drive

To the Editor:

The France School of Dance would like to thank the community and students for donating over 900 pounds of food and more than \$400 in donations.

Our performance/food drive was held in December at North Salem High School. All the proceeds will benefit the Keizer Community Food Bank.

Our next performance and food drive will be in May.

**Linda France Martin**  
Keizer

## Protests

To the Editor:

I am very much in favor of a protest provided it is non-violent. Protest is just a way of showing displeasure with certain actions by government, industry and individuals. I certainly don't support mobs that create damage to persons or property. Unfortunately, protests are sometimes conducted by people who ignore facts or have personal prejudice.

Many times these prejudices are flamed by racial radicals like Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson. Whenever there are cameras and national

## letters

news worthy situations, there you will find this type of people whipping up frenzy by mostly frustrated people but sometimes just hoodlums. I believe the blood of police officers who are killed by deranged people because of recent tragedies is on the hands of racial radicals.

Not all protests are about race. Sometimes protests are about injustice like the actions of the fat cats bankers and Wall Street people who gain untold wealth by committing fraud. It appears the wealthy get away unpunished while police have to attempt to arrest someone who is selling cigarettes on a city street.

**Bill Quinn**  
Keizer

## A hearty food bank salute

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Keizer Community Food Bank, I would like to thank the many volunteers from our cooperative churches, (Keizer Clearlake UMC, Keizer Christian, St. Edward Catholic, John Knox Presbyterian and Faith Lutheran) that supply the hands and feet of our food ministry.

Also to the many donors that help keep our pantry shelves viable and checking account worthy: Uptown Music, Tony's Comics, Lew, France School of Dance, Lakepoint Community Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Keizer Elks, Keizer Lady Elks, Don Pancho's, Marion Polk Food Share and the many individual sustainers that regularly enhance our pocket book.

Special donations thank you to Albertson's for 80-plus turkey dinners over Thanksgiving and New Years.

Because of the generosity of this community, KCFB was able to serve 2,385 families in 2014.

**Curt McCormack**  
Keizer



## Permanent Armageddon

By E.J. DIONNE JR.

Meg Greenfield, the late *Washington Post* editorial page editor, counseled against writing in "High C" all the time. By this she meant that an editorialist or columnist who expressed equally noisy levels of indignation about everything would lack credibility when something truly outrageous came along that merited a well-crafted high-pitched scream.

We now seem to be living in the Age of High C, a period when every fight is Armageddon, every foe is a monster, and every issue is either the key to national survival or the doorway to ruin.

This habit seems especially pronounced in the way President Obama's adversaries treat him. It's odd that so many continue to see Obama as a radical and a socialist even as the Dow hits record levels and the wealthy continue to do very nicely. If he is a socialist, he is surely the most incompetent practitioner in the history of Marxism.

The reaction to Obama is part of a larger difficulty that involves pretending we are philosophically far more divided than we are. In all of the well-off democracies, even people who actually call themselves socialists no longer claim to have an alternative to the market as the primary creator and distributor of goods and services. The boundaries on the left end of what's permissible in the public debate have been pushed well toward the center. This makes the hysteria and hyperbole all the more incomprehensible.

But let's dream a little and assume that the American left signed on to the proposals put forward by Lane Kenworthy of the University of

## other views

California-San Diego in his challenging (and, by the way, very pro-market) book *Social Democratic America*, published earlier this year.

Kenworthy's argument is that we can "successfully embrace both flexibility and security, both competition and social justice."

His wish list is a straightforward set of progressive initiatives. A few of them: universal health insurance and early education, extensive new help on job searches and training, a year of paid parental leave, an increased minimum wage indexed to prices, expansions of efforts that supplement wages such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the government as an employer of last resort.

His program, he says, would cost around 10 percent of our GDP. Now that's a lot of money and the debate about whether we should spend it would be anything but phony. Yet would such a level of expenditure signal the death of our constitutional system? Would it make us like, say, Cuba? No, and no. It might make us a little more like Germany, the Netherlands or the Scandinavian countries. We can argue if we want to do this, but these market democracies happen to share with us an affection for freedom and enterprise.

And when it comes to High C, there's nothing quite like our culture wars in which disagreements about social issues are seen as battles between libertines and bigots. When I look around, I see a lot of liberals who live

quite traditional family lives and even go regularly to churches, synagogues and mosques. I see a lot of conservatives who are feminists when it comes to their daughters' opportunities and oppose bigotry against gays and lesbians.

The ideological resolution I'd suggest for the new year is that all sides stop fighting and pool their energies to easing the marriage and family crisis that is engulfing working-class Americans.

This would require liberals to acknowledge what the vast majority of them already practice in their own lives: that, all things being equal, kids are better off with two loving and engaged parents. It would require conservatives to acknowledge that many of the pressures on families are economic and that the decline of well-paying blue-collar work is causing huge disruptions in family formation. I'd make a case that Kenworthy's ideas for a more social democratic America would be good for families, but let's argue it out in the spirit of a shared quest for remedies.

Maybe it's asking too much, but might social conservatives also consider my friend Jonathan Rauch's idea that they abandon their campaign against gay marriage in favor of a new campaign on behalf of the value of committed relationships for all of us?

Disagreement is one of the joys of freedom, so I am all for boisterous debate and tough political and philosophical competition. It's how I make my living. But our democratic system would be healthier if it followed the Greenfield rule and reserved the harshest invective for things that are genuinely monstrous. (Washington Post Writers Group)

## Building the American dream from within

Black-white race relations may improve by way of succeeding generations of Americans but there appears little hope that'll soon happen dramatically. The election of Barack Obama gave those who think positively about the prospect for improvements some measure of encouragement. However, events in Washington, D.C. and wider, exemplified by the presence of resolute naysayers from the Southern states who deny the president any support, have helped to slide race relations backwards.

Meanwhile, there are conditions of life among blacks in America that could be vastly improved by their own efforts, should they organize around such relevant community objectives. Reference here is to the fact that blacks earn less money than whites, graduate from college in fewer cases and make up our prison population in disproportionately higher numbers. They are unemployed at rates over 11 percent, which is twice the national average, and more than twice that of the white population.

It's recognized that more and more blacks have been able to earn college degrees and improve their prospects but far too many blacks get left behind to lead lives of desperate depravity. One of the central problems is that in too many black neighborhoods those folks living there are upward-bound deprived and lead economically bankrupt existences. Mainly, their prospects may be most accurately described as slim and none.

Now, then, how could things change for them? How about getting together in collective efforts and pulling together for the sake of every family and individual in the neighborhood? Pooling resources, however limited, but large when everyone participates, and investing in their best

## gene h. mcintyre

and brightest by requiring a pledge to return as educated persons to participate back in their home communities as police officers, firefighters, lawyers, doctors, teachers, engineers and in other city hall serving capacities would predictably help to pull everyone up by their boot straps and make each life there more viable and livable.

U.S. history demonstrates what every minority group has found to be true, that is, that success and the embrace of the American dream has not been handed to them. They have found that they must assert themselves through education, training and experience at doing what needs to be done to achieve better circumstances and have had to do it for themselves without any government intervention. As it stands now, too many blacks who "make it," like outstanding athletes, superlative musicians and the Harvard-educated "move on."

A critical factor in the reformation of the nation's black neighborhoods is the gang member and the extent to which he is involved in drug dealing, drug addiction and illicit activity in general. Showing these youth before

they enter lives of crime that they can do good work in the neighborhood of their birth is a way that promises attractive change, life change that's contagious and effective because that kind of change provides accomplishment's good-feelings through the personal pride and satisfaction generated by community recognition.

A final thought regarding this matter is that we are often admonished by black activists and their white sympathizers to discuss race relations. However, personal experience points out that whenever a column addresses some aspect of race relations, unless it parallels and represents the prevailing opinion and conventional wisdom of black activists and their white sympathizers, he who ventures there is labeled a racist. As long as this kind of reaction is what greets whites who write on the subject, progress will never happen. Meeting on common ground through compromise and the sharing of viable ideas is more likely to make race relations progress than resorting to a dead-end by name-calling. (Gene H. McIntyre's column appears weekly in the *Keizertimes*.)



# Keizertimes

Wheatland Publishing Corp. • 142 Chemawa Road N. • Keizer, Oregon 97303  
phone: 503.390.1051 • web: www.keizertimes.com • email: kt@keizertimes.com



**EDITOR & PUBLISHER**  
Lyndon A. Zaitz  
publisher@keizertimes.com

**NEWS EDITOR**  
Craig Murphy  
editor@keizertimes.com

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
Eric A. Howald  
news@keizertimes.com

**ADVERTISING**  
Paula Moseley  
advertising@keizertimes.com

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
Andrew Jackson  
graphics@keizertimes.com

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
Laurie Painter  
billing@keizertimes.com

**LEGAL NOTICES**  
legals@keizertimes.com

**OFFICE INTERN**  
Taylor Pfenning

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

One year: \$25 in Marion County, \$33 outside Marion County, \$45 outside Oregon

### PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Publication No: USPS 679-430

### POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:  
Keizertimes Circulation  
142 Chemawa Road N.  
Keizer, OR 97303

Periodical postage paid at  
Salem, Oregon

facebook

facebook.com/keizertimes

twitter

twitter.com/keizertimes