

KeizerOpinion

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Keizer's history: discovered

Yes, Keizer does have history. A lot of it as will be seen when the book *Images of America: Keizer* is officially released in April.

The book, printed by Arcadia Publishing, will have an official release on April 16. The Keizer book will join thousands of others by Arcadia which chronicle the history of small towns and downtowns cross the country.

The Keizer book, a project of the Keizer Heritage Museum, was headed up by Tammy Wild, an instructional assistant at Forest Ridge Elementary School and a history buff. Photos from the Keizer Heritage Museum's archives were the first to be considered for the book. A call went out to the community last year asking residents to loan their photos of Keizer life from the 19th century to the mid-20th century.

Keizerites searched their attics, basements and albums and loaned hundreds of photos showing Keizer's earliest pioneers and some landmarks that still stand today. The response was great as photos poured in from residents and organizations. America is camera-happy so it is safe to assume there are many more photos documenting the Keizer area dating back 150 years.

Tammy Wild authored the book

using materials from the museum and submitted items. The books *Looking Back* and *More Looking Back*, were also helpful guides. Those books, authored in the 1980s by Keizer author Ann Lossner, are still available for sale at the Keizer Heritage Museum.

Readers of the new book will see photos and read about people whose names live on in our community such as Blake, Claggett, Cummings and the original Keizers. Charles McNary is featured prominently in the book, with good reason since so much in Keizer bears his name besides our high school.

Keizer households, especially those with long ties to the community, will deem this book a 'must have' for their bookshelves. *Images of America: Keizer* shows that everyone and every place has stories to tell and Keizer's story is as rich as any community. Tammy Wild and other volunteers with the Keizer Heritage Museum can take a deep bow for this accomplishment.

The book will go on sale in April there and many other retail locations. Pre-sale orders have been brisk and there are talks about doing a second book covering Keizer from the early 1960s to present day. What a great gift that would be for Keizer's 35th birthday in 2017.

—LAZ

No advertising, please

By R. WILLIAM STITT

I have had a keen interest in seeing a large "destination" playground being brought to Keizer Rapids Park ever since my first child was born six-and-a-half years ago; ever since I scouted high and low throughout the region and found that no such public playground existed.

I had traveled to many other communities and had seen exactly the type of play structures that I was hoping to see built at Keizer Rapids: communities such as Lincoln City, Astoria, Sandy and McMinnville in Oregon and Oak Harbor and Langley in Washington state. It turns out that all of these playgrounds had one thing in common; they were all community built projects designed and built under the guidance of Albany, New York-based Leathers and Associates, the very consultant firm hired by Keizer to design the Big Toy.

After learning about Leathers, I became an early proponent of using such a firm to help guide us through the community build process. Community build, of course, means financial support from local businesses and it has been gratifying to see several individuals and organizations pledge and donate money towards larger ticket items for the Big Toy project. This includes the commitment recently made by Volcanoes baseball team owner, Jerry Walker.

While I was excited to hear of Mr. Walker's pledge of support for

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a volcano inspired slide, I am deeply troubled by the proposed design that would include the Crater mascot or one that would otherwise be painted like the Salem/Keizer Volcanoes logo. It makes me ask the question, "Do we really need to turn our children's playground into a billboard?" While the corporatization of public spaces has become common place, public playgrounds should be off limits. Such practices should be limited to sports complexes, convention centers and concert areas. While it is of course fitting and expected to recognize a donor on a centralized kiosk or even with a plaque on a piece of equipment, it is inappropriate to turn a playground in a public park into advertising space.

The last thing that I would want to see is for Mr. Walker to pull his support for the playground. I do believe that a volcano inspired slide is a great idea but does it need to be emblazoned with a mascot and logo? Let us include a volcano slide in the Big Toy design because we live in the land of volcanoes such as Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens and even Mt. Tabor and not because it is the name of our local ball club.

(R. William Stitt lives in Keizer.)

Paper has bias against the right

To the Editor:

I was very surprised reading the editorial titled "Do not be goaded into war."

Your prejudice toward any conservative positions is quite apparent. The first statement I object to is that "conservative politicians do not support food stamps, unemployment benefits, clean air and water." Conservatives do support these programs but not when they are abused. This opinion piece goes downhill from there. If I wanted to read the *Washington Post* I would subscribe to it. I don't need this subscription which appears to reject any views that do not align with the liberal left.

Jim Keller
Keizer

Knight of Arts a grand success

To the Editor:

On behalf of the McNary Fine Arts Board, thank you to each and

letters

every one of you for your generous support of Knight of Arts 2015.

This was a record breaking year for us, and none of it would have been possible without your help. Because of the hard work and generosity of donors, parents, guests, and volunteers we exceeded our goal of \$30,000 we had set for the night. While our numbers are still being finalized, we know we made approximately \$35,000 for McNary Fine Arts Programs.

This is a huge first step toward updating our technology in Ken Collins Theater for future events. Thank you, parents, family and friends! Thank you, Keizer.

Leah Garro
McNary Fine Arts Board

Send a letter to the editor (300 words) to the Keizertimes. Deadline for submissions is noon each Tuesday.
E-mail to: publisher@keizertimes.com



Negotiating from weakness

By MICHAEL GERSON

Over the years, President Obama has been criticized and praised—but mainly praised—for lacking a driving foreign policy ideology. It seemed to be one of the "childish things" he promised to set aside as he launched his presidency in 2009. America's conduct in the world would be characterized by outreach, consultation, flexibility and a prudent recognition of limits.

Now comes the prospect of a nuclear deal with Iran, forcing a revised assessment from future presidential historians.

Obama is contemplating what Michael Doran of the Hudson Institute calls "a revolution in the conception of America's role in the region." Since the Carter administration—which saw the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the seizure of the Grand Mosque in Mecca and the Iranian revolution—American presidents have pledged to prevent any hostile power from controlling the Persian Gulf. A series of alliances and relationships were established and maintained, sometimes with difficult or shady partners, to enforce the Carter Doctrine.

Now Obama is offering Iran the prospect of being, in his words, "a very successful regional power" in exchange for limits on its nuclear program. Across the board, the administration emphasizes common interests with Iran in the defeat of the Islamic State. So the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, recently argued that Iran's direct military intervention in Iraq may be a "positive thing."

A sort of offer to Iran was always on the table, at least during the George W. Bush years, if the regime would: (1) abandon its nuclear ambitions, (2) respect human rights and

other views

(3) end support for terrorism. Iran, in essence, could be treated as a normal nation if it actually became a normal nation.

Obama has now narrowed American demands entirely to the first category, the nuclear file. Concessions in this area—perhaps even temporary concessions—will allow Iran to escape sanctions, rejoin the global community and even become a partner in defeating Sunni extremism. It is, presumably, an offer the Iranians can't refuse.

This was the context for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress. He was attempting to reconnect Iranian nuclear ambitions to its broader conduct, ideology and ambitions. In the process, the leader of a Jewish state became a credible spokesman for America's Gulf State allies, who fear that America is overturning old promises and relationships.

This is happening. In its bold attempt at an Iranian opening, the Obama administration views Netanyahu, AIPAC, the Gulf States, Congress and, perhaps, Ayatollah Khamenei as obstacles. Its partners are Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. Obama and a small knot of advisers believe this deal could be the defining foreign policy moment of the second term—the Cuba opening, times 100.

This driving vision has already distorted American policy in a variety of ways. Obama could not take forceful action against Iran's proxy, the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad, for fear of undermining nuclear negotiations. The adminis-

tration has downplayed the issue of human rights in Iran for the same reason. America has now blessed the operation of Iranian-dominated militias within Iraq—particularly in the liberation of Tikrit—raising the prospect of Iranian control over Iraq's security and oil sectors. Iranian military forces and proxies now operate freely from Baghdad to Beirut, seemingly tolerated in the overarching strategic goal of defeating the Islamic State.

As Obama has avoided direct confrontation with Iran to preserve the viability of nuclear talks, Iran has been busy destabilizing the Middle East, replacing us as the major power and threatening our allies. And those allies have taken note.

All these risks and compromises make sense only if Obama reaches his transformational agreement with Iran. But Iran knows this as well, which puts America in a poor negotiating position. American weakness has already been advertised. The original goal of the group of six—enshrined in three United Nations Security Council resolutions—was for Iran to stop all enrichment and reprocessing. Obama gave up this demand at the beginning of negotiations, instead of (perhaps) conceding minimal enrichment at the end.

The likely result? A bad deal, leaving Iranians with substantial nuclear capability and infrastructure, beginning a mad rush to lift sanctions, and essentially accommodating Iranian aggression across the region. If, as the Obama administration will certainly argue, there is no alternative to accepting this agreement, it is because it has worked for none and left none.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

Israeli election could determine future

gene h. mcintyre

and "not to ignore aggression in the hopes of gaining an illusory peace."

At stake, really, are two risks. On our side is a deal that will not allow Iran to build a nuclear bomb for another 10 years because there will be regular inspections and other limits imposed. Netanyahu wants the negotiations to end now because absolute guarantees in a foolproof agreement are not included.

Sure, the deal we are trying to reach with Iran does not mean that Iran will never have the bomb. What Netanyahu wants is an end to talks and a preemptive attack on Iran by two nuclear powers that will result in more warring in the Middle East, an end to any chance of peace, and many more people hating us as a nation of people whose answer to every problem is war.

President Obama and his team of advisors see that the talks afford us and Iran the best chance possible of encouraging a peaceful evolution in Iran by the average Iranian who is no more war-minded than the typical American.

Walking away from negotiations is a sure way to keep things rather crazy there.

To a significant extent, the fate of the world is in the hands of Israeli voters next week. If they re-elect the hot-headed Netanyahu then he will continue to build fires for imminent war. We'll soon know whether Israeli voters want to try to keep the peace or join some of the Republican hawks, no matter the consequences.

After all, our hawks are pawns of the U.S. military-industrialists who earn big profits making war machines and munitions and demand support from those in Congress whose campaign costs they pay. These are the same folks who make gobs of money also selling their war-making materials to Israel.

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



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