

KeizerOpinion

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Three men changing education

If Chuck Lee and John Honey get students as excited about the Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) as adults, the facility will surpass all expectations.

The Career Technical Education Center—long a dream of the Salem-Keizer School District—is scheduled to open this fall on Portland Road. Budget cuts of more than \$120 million a few years ago put the kabosh on the district moving forward. It took the zeal and vision of Larry Tokarski's Mountain West Investment Corp. to provide \$7 million to make the center a reality.

Lee and Honey have been making presentations around Keizer and Salem to talk about the vision and creation of CTEC. It is hard not to be infected by their excitement and enthusiasm.

The CTEC will prepare students for high-skill, high-wage jobs that will be in high demand as millions of Baby Boomers start to retire from positions in the trades such as mechanics, plumbing, construction, electrical and the like. Accepted students will remain enrolled at their resident high schools; they will take advanced electives as well as math and English at CTEC.

The first classes will begin this fall. The goal is enroll up to 200 students, with an eventual student body of 1,000 within five years. The first class will find a large remodeled facility. Students will have access to transportation from their own high schools to CTEC. They will also be able to continue to be involved with extracurricular activities such as sports and the arts.

At the Career Technical Education Center students can earn up to 35 total credits over a two-year period. They will take classes, many taught by experts, will take them from introduction to manufacturing and onto skills that are vital in the trades including reading blueprints, precision measuring and hands-on building.

The number one concern of owners of construction and manufacturing companies is their need to replace retiring employees and not being able to identify skilled workers. The education center addresses that concern head on. High schools will always graduate a number of students who wish to attend college and enter a non-trade career: finance, law, medicine, etc. The Career Technical Education Center is an excellent option for those who don't wish to be a lawyer or doctor but want to make a good living.

Chuck Lee and John Honey bring many years of educational experience to their task of creating the center and getting it operational. Lee, until recently, was president of Blanchet Catholic School and sits on the Salem-Keizer School Board; Honey was principal of both McNary and North Salem high schools.

Lee, Honey and Tokarski are a formidable team creating an educational facility not found anywhere else in the country. Due to their vision Salem and Keizer are on the cutting edge of vocational education. We're excited and we want our kids to be excited, too.

—LAZ

Too many bills

By REP. BILL POST

from the capitol



By BILL POST

Things are moving quickly here in the legislature these days. One short check of the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) where you can see every bill, where they are and everything on committees and floor sessions and you will find some of the craziest ideas you can possibly imagine. Everything from fines for large gatherings in the forests, to banning "Sharia law" in Oregon, to "animal porn," to...well, you get it. It seems when one gets elected, one is supposed to write all kinds of bills. I just don't get this burning desire to create more laws. They may have the best of intentions but it's just more laws. I want to cut government restrictions and red tape and chip away at the already-too-numerous laws we have now.

One bill I did introduce, HB 2969, is a bill to help out small businesses across the state. Last week it was voted unanimously out of committee and hopefully will be voted on in the House soon.

So let's take a look at a hot topic issue from the last couple weeks. Education: The amount of emails I get overall is pretty high and I answer them

true, so don't buy into that.

There are many of us in the building who want to increase funding for K-12 to \$7.5 billion. Yes, you read that right—\$7.5 billion. Instead of that, however, leadership has started the negotiations at just over \$7 billion, and then schools are required to provide all-day kindergarten.

On top of that, I just found out about HB 3390, what I call College for Convicts. Yes, \$9,500 a year for three years so convicts can get a college degree. I'm not opposed to the concept but not at the expense of our kids.

So finally, I want you to know that my office is really your office. Please call my staff anytime and schedule a visit or if you have a high school student who would find it interesting to be an honorary page for a day, please contact us. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

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

all, but education is by far the topic I hear the most about. The word on the street is that the legislature is "cutting the K-12 budget." That is not true, so don't buy into that.

The means to control polio came to be in my lifetime. It was a truly dreaded malady that took away a victim's ability to breathe outside an "iron lung" and other forms of paralysis that deprived those so contracted with not being able to carry on with lives resembling normality. Jonas Salk was recognized as a hero throughout the nation and that meant a lot of grateful Oregonians, too. I remember well how I

Anti-vaccination forces hurt all

Rude awakenings, it was once believed, were reserved for other states in our nation. Now we know from recent events that the one exceptional state, Oregon, is no longer of privileged status as was true in former years. Our former governor has taken a dive for a girlfriend and it turns out that he may have had a lot of state administrators helping him, those apparently willing to be bossed around by the former governor's fiancee.

But the most threatening among the changes that have come to Oregon of late is that which decries vaccinations and the immunizations against disease that are afforded by them. In the West, specifically western Europe, experimentation with ways to control disease date back to the 1700s when successful means were found to rid the population of smallpox. Other efforts followed and enabled people and their children to avoid diseases that promised certain death in years past.

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hoped for years I would not get polio and then escaped that worry after receiving my dose of prevention.

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what matter of madness do we endure now? People who will not permit vaccinations against serious, death-threatening diseases for their children, themselves and the entire population. What has caused so many among us to ignore the consequences of dangerous, terminating illnesses? Frankly, I have no answer to my nagging question. I can guess at the reasons but suggest that the greatest, the most compelling reason for vaccinations has to do with humanity: the foundation for perpetuating a civilized world, one where the very survival of humans is at stake.

As a child I heard none of the bizarre screams and yells directed at enlightened medical doctors and Oregon leaders whose laws that bring health protections to all persons living in this state. Those against it must hail from times long past where ignorance ruled and science was yet unknown.

Meanwhile, way beyond disappointment is what's felt about those caved Oregon legislators who surrendered their integrity to the

wanton few who came to Salem to protest what could have been public health protections through required vaccinations. It's not understood what these representatives see as their job when they turn their backs on public safety for the majority to practice cowardice in response to the few misguided among us.

One TV host has suggested that we not acquire our health information from talk show hosts, radio nutcases or "Google University." Rather, he went on to say, look to medical graduates who attended medical schools with accreditation. Then there's the very wise quip about those who forget history being destined to repeat it and the wise doctor who asks whether you remember the time you got polio: "Of course you don't, because your grandparents got your parents vaccinated who in turn got you vaccinated." But this kind of logic is unfortunately too obscure for those among us who prefer darkness over light.

Incidentally, it would have to be a rather brainless God to discourage people from inventing and using vaccinations. If God weren't smart, don't you see, he'd not have created a humankind that could save itself. After all, he had already made a huge mistake with the dinosaurs.

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

Hillary's Nixonian path to office

By MICHAEL GERSON

The effective kickoff of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign was an act of deck clearing so breathtaking, so brazen, that it remains difficult to process.

A former secretary of state summoned reporters to the United Nations, made a statement on Iran nuclear negotiations, then admitted deleting more than 30,000 emails she deemed personal from the account she exclusively used while in office. This was the culmination of a deliberate, multiyear end run around congressional oversight, the Freedom of Information Act and the archiving of federal records. Documents she found inconvenient to sort while in government were convenient to destroy after leaving office.

Those looking for a historical parallel turned, inevitably, to one figure. According to Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., Clinton is "a modern, Democratic Richard Nixon." "Nixon didn't burn the tapes," tweeted Joe Scarborough, "but Hillary deleted the emails." Politico's Todd Purdum did a careful historical comparison to Nixon, finding Clinton similarly "suspicious, defensive, contemptuous of the press and scornful of political adversaries."

Clinton's email housecleaning—barring future revelations—may work. She seems to have effectively navigated the gray areas of federal rules to avoid transparency. But Republicans clearly hope the Nixonian label—which some in the media find credible—will stick. They believe the email controversy, while not politically fatal in isolation, will add to the composite image of a candidate driven by secrecy and resentment, surrounded by a ruthless palace guard and convinced that rules apply only to others.

A Republican candidate for president in 2016 (like every candidate for president) will need to negatively characterize his or her opponent. But the narrative of Clinton as

Nixon underestimates both leaders.

First, the obvious: Nixon won two presidential elections, after being associat-

ed with low political tactics (against Helen Gahagan Douglas) and a series of scandals (including a political donation controversy that nearly forced his resignation as vice president, and a political favoritism scandal somehow involving his brother Donald and Howard Hughes). Well before Watergate, Nixon was not viewed as an ethical paragon. But he was generally viewed as smart, tenacious, tough and knowledgeable about the world. Which sounds familiar.

The context of Nixon's two presidential victories (1968 and 1972) was unique. For many Americans, Nixon represented social order in a frightening world of riots, assassinations and bell-bottom jeans. But a reputation for toughness was also seen as a presidential qualification during the Cold War, and Nixon (who had gone toe to toe with Nikita Khrushchev in the "kitchen debate") benefited from the contrast to Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern.

The comparison to Clinton can certainly be overplayed. By all accounts, she lacks Nixon's personal awkwardness and strangeness. But a portion of the characterization "Nixonian" is a compliment: hard-working, untiring, relentless. While another portion—wary, secretive, ruthless—can lead down some dark alleys.

Right now, Clinton is generally benefiting, not suffering, from this reputation. The next president, from either party, will need to provide a contrast of strength and purpose to President Obama's foreign policy of disengagement that has resulted in disaster and led to inadequate,

ad hoc responses. Despite her association with the failed "Russian reset," Clinton is generally positioned on foreign policy matters (especially on Syria). She is a Democrat who would be seen as a tougher, more responsible alternative to her former employer.

And this reputation is also helping Clinton within her party. Her pre-campaign has been rusty—her awkward book tour, her claim that she left office "flat broke," her exorbitant speaking fees, her foundation's acceptance of donations by foreign governments. Democratic concerns about her skills are real; but public criticisms are rare and mild. Some of this reflects Clinton's position as a prohibitive front-runner, but some is also the intimidating effect of her style of politics. No Democrat wants to be on the wrong list.

Clinton is not unbeatable, but the effort to label her as Nixonian will not beat her. Republicans face a very difficult electoral map; their party is still viewed more negatively than the alternative; they have managed to alienate large numbers of working-class and minority voters; and all of their prospective presidential candidates are currently losing to Clinton by double digits.

If the next election is viewed by Republicans as a referendum on Hillary Clinton's scandals—and this distracts from the task of reconstituting the Republican message and appeal—then Clinton may take the Nixonian path to the Oval Office.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

other views

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