

Future big Keizer projects

The community build project is completed, a little later than hoped for, but the new big playground at Keizer Rapids Park will officially be open to the public on Saturday, June 20.

All the volunteers who helped with the construction and those who donated money and materials can look upon their work and pat themselves on the back.

That's one major project down, one to go: the turf field at McNary High School. Construction is expected to begin in earnest this month. It should be completed in time for the McNary Athletic Booster Club's Blue Day event in August.

Once the turf field is in, the community can lean back, exhale and enjoy its new amenities. And think about the next community project. Think is the operative term.

Keizer leaders need to think about how large community projects come to be, how to finance them and what to operate and maintain them once completed.

One person can make a difference. The big playground came about solely from the vision of a single west Keizer man, Will Stitt, who had seen similar big playgrounds in other towns. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board fell right in line and fast-tracked the project. It was never in doubt that the playground would be at Keizer Rapids Park. Relying on the experience of a New York consultant, a location within the park was chosen. Until it wasn't. One voice rang out that it would be better to place it near Chemawa Road, to be more visible. That led to a delay of more than a year while the eventual site was brought into the Urban Growth Boundary and the Keizer city limits. Once again, that was fast-tracked.

When the consultants went to Keizer schools to find out what kids thought the playground should have, they walked away with hundreds of ideas that were translated into rough plans and drawings that were presented at a standing-room only crowd that same day. The community was excited, but the kids were ecstatic. They were shortly dis-

appointed by the whole relocation issue that caused a delay of more than a year.

The community was to be recruited to volunteer to fill thousands of hours of shifts to help cut, screw, wrench, haul, rake and more. One-hundred fifty volunteers were expected for each shift of the build. About half the expected number reported for duty, but those that did worked hard and passionately.

Any big project must have a clear need and a clear vision of its use, where it will be sited and how it will fit into its surroundings. A project—especially if it is community based—should have its financing in place before a shovel of dirt is turned over. The project's maintenance and operation (as applicable) needs have to be planned.

Future community projects will face two hurdles: manpower and money. Today's busy family lives means there are fewer volunteers to cull from the citizens. There are scheduled activities for the kids, caretaking of family members, job duties—any number of reasons that would prevent someone to devote precious free time to a community project.

As the playground and the turf field projects have shown, it is not easy to amass the cash that is required after volunteer labor and in-kind donations are factored in. Each year brings more projects, organizations and causes that seek financial support. There is only so much money available in the community. That is why it is so important to have saavy people who know how to look beyond our borders for donations from corporations and foundations. There are thousands of foundations that donate money; corporate America have departments devoted to community giving.

Before the next project is initiated let us together decide if there is a need and a want from the people, assure it is fully funded. That will most likely include hiring people to do most of the work. Volunteerism is part of the city's motto but the nature of the city has changed and our plans must reflect that. —LAZ

Impeachment in Oregon

To the Editor:

The Oregon Legislature is the only one in the country lacking impeachment power over state executives. House Joint Resolution 31 is designed to correct that deficiency, and is long overdue.

This bill was voted out of the house and is now in the senate, in Senator Rosenbaum's Rules Committee.

Please contact your senators and have them support this bill, and contact Senator Rosenbaum to encourage her to have a hearing on this proposal.

Our previous governor's behavior, and the tragedies related to Cover Oregon and the Oregon Health Department underscore the need for this legislation.

Erin B. Thurber
Salem

Rights versus privileges

To the Editor:

It appears that Mr. Don Vowell (*Why is a gun different than a car?*, June 12), doesn't know the difference between a right and a privilege, so let me explain slowly for him. A right is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, while a privilege comes from government. That's why the state can regulate qualifications for driving a motor vehicle. Looking at the 1st Amendment, would Mr. Vowell be for requiring a written and prac-

tical test before he could express his opinion in public? I doubt it.

There seems to be a great deal of glee in the new background check requirements for Oregon residents. Especially domestic violence being a disqualifying factor. I guess the reasoning is that someone who assaults a member of their family can't be trusted to own a firearm. With that in mind, let me point out that, according to a recent book authored by retired White House service staff, when Hillary found out that husband Bill had been involved in yet another affair, she threw an object at him that struck him with enough force to require sutures in his forehead. Most reaction to this revelation was that he probably deserved it, and he probably did. But if the people involved were Bill and Hillary Clinton, and the police had been called, they would have been required to have arrested Hillary for—domestic violence. The fact that Ms. Clinton got away with it doesn't change the mindset of the act. Had she not gotten away with it, she would be prohibited from owning a firearm in Oregon. Is this who you want to have her finger on the nuclear trigger and be the Commander in Chief of the world's most powerful military force? Just a thought.

Wayne A. Moreland
Keizer

The therapy of helping a community

By CRAIG MURPHY

Apparently I wasn't the only one who noticed her.

While at the Big Toy build site multiple times in the past week or so, I began to see some familiar faces.

I'm not just talking familiar in terms of people like city councilors or department heads I see on a regular basis.

I'm talking familiar in terms of people who seemed to be there every time I stopped by.

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, volunteers started building the new play structure at Keizer Rapids Park last Wednesday, June 10. The goal was to be done by 5 p.m. last Sunday, but that didn't happen. As this is being written, final steps are being done in anticipation of the structure being open this weekend.

During my frequent visits, I often noticed a lady walking around, making sure volunteers had water. Mayor Cathy Clark and others made mention of her as well during Monday's Keizer City Council meeting.

That lady was 68-year-old Patsy Smith.

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"I want to call out Patsy Smith, who came with her daughter and granddaughter," the mayor said. "She made sure every person was hydrated and had sunblock. If someone wanted Gatorade, she made sure that person had Gatorade. She wanted to make sure no one out there got sick because of dehydration. People like that made the event so amazing."

Indeed.

On Sunday afternoon I talked with Smith.

"I've been out here eight hours a day," she said. "There's not too much I can do. I had my spine worked on last month. I'm supposed to be doing some walking each day, but I've been wishy-washy with my therapy. This has helped with that."

2015 campaign has truly started

By MICHAEL GERSON

Stealthily demonstrating one of Jeb Bush's more controversial policy views—the need for Common Core history standards—an “anonymous ally” is quoted in *The New York Times* as saying that “the culture of the Bush operation will now be a Pickett's Charge engagement with his main opponents.”

Republican politicians have generally preferred Teddy Roosevelt's San Juan Hill model of political engagement—a guaranteed outcome with maximum press coverage. But it will be interesting to see Bush strategist Mike Murphy roll out his Gallipoli-inspired social media campaign.

Meaningless historical errors by unnamed sources aside, the starting gun of the 2016 campaign has been fired, and three Republicans are clearly in the first tier of plausibility —Jeb Bush, Scott Walker and Marco Rubio. The conventional wisdom about these candidates is interesting for being mostly wrong.

Jeb's role: The Establishment Moderate. Reporters who have covered Bush for decades find this risible. If his record as governor shows anything, it is a visceral distrust of government bureaucracy, expressed through the aggressive privatization of public functions and the elimination of thousands of state government jobs. Bush cut taxes and championed gun rights and school vouchers. He was, in his own self-assessment, “probably the most pro-life governor in modern times.”

Members of team Bush see opportunity in this gap between impression and reality. Familiarity, they think, will reduce contempt among conservatives. Bush is banking on memory. Bush's advisers think that Walker, who has sometimes

trimmed to win in a progressive state, is banking on forgetfulness.

It is not quite that simple. The best ideological description of Bush comes via *National Review's* Rich Lowry, who calls him a “pre-Obama conservative.” Bush was essentially out of politics during the traumatic, formative period of modern conservatism—the election and re-election of a faculty-lounge liberal who set out to transform America. Bush didn't fight in these ideological trenches and doesn't share the scars from conservatism's real Pickett's Charge (Ted Cruz's government shutdown).

What a few find disqualifying might be refreshing to the broader electorate. When George W. Bush ran and won in 2000, he distanced himself, not only from Clinton era, but from the scorched-earth GOP of Newt Gingrich, Tom DeLay and crew. “After all of the shouting and all of the scandal,” George W. Bush said in his Philadelphia convention speech. “After all of the bitterness and broken faith, we can begin again.” The younger Bush has a chance to distance himself from the whole mess in Washington during the Obama era, not just the Democratic portion of it.

The role ascribed to Walker by conventional wisdom is quite different: The Top Tier's Tea Party Favorite. In fights against public-sector unions, he has earned a serious reputation. Grover Norquist recounts: “when you meet him, it's like seeing somebody who sits on a throne on the skulls of his enemies.”

This is what passes as a compli-

In other words, Smith was intent on helping with the build like her daughter and granddaughter did. When she became limited in her options, she became a key person all the other volunteers depended on. After all, the weather was pretty hot and water was in high demand. Smith delivered.

Smith's family will be using the Big Toy. She has four great-grandchildren who will enjoy it for years to come.

“This has been wonderful,” Smith said. “This is awesome. Bless their hearts. Everyone is just so glad to be here. This is going to be heavily used. It's so awesome.”

The work put in by countless volunteers was impressive, whether it was for one shift or the entire build. All who participated are to be commended – from project coordinator Mark Caillier to those who did the heavy lifting to those who carried the water.

(Craig Murphy is the news editor of the *Keizertimes*.)

other
views

ment in some conservative circles. But this impression disguises a boldly moderate maneuver. Of all the Republican candidates, Walker has been most forthright in his intention to downplay cultural issues in favor of economic ones. When pressed on gay marriage last year, he said, “When I talk about things, I talk about the economic and fiscal crisis in our state and in our country. That's what people want to resonate about.” And again: “I don't talk about [gay marriage] at all. I don't talk about anything but fiscal and economic issues in the state.” On the abortion issue, he has said, “I don't obsess with it.”

It is true that the GOP will need a changed tone and approach when it comes to social issues. And the portion of the tea party that leans libertarian will have no objection to Walker's instinct for silence.

But this comes closest to the argument made by Gov. Mitch Daniels during the last presidential cycle that Republicans should accept a “truce” on social issues while emphasizing economic ones. Religious conservatives—who have considerable overlap with the tea party and disproportionate influence in Iowa—were not pleased then, and may not be now.

None of this myth-busting does much to clarify the Republican race. When candidates refuse to play their assigned roles, it adds uncertainty and interest. My only conclusion: This contest is unlikely to move along expected ideological grooves.

Which brings us to the conventional wisdom about Rubio: The Riser With Limitless Potential. That is, well, pretty much accurate.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

Why Bernie Sanders deserves a look

Refreshing is what it is when a member of Congress who seeks the presidency lets us know what's on his mind rather than echoing what's on the mind of a billionaire who underwrites his campaign. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is that refreshing candidate who will run for the highest political office in the U.S. where he says he'll lead a “political revolution” for working families and against money in politics.

Furthermore, Sanders has said that he is the only candidate who's prepared to take on the billionaires. He seeks residency in the White House where he can lead millions of Americans who are ready now to stand up to say “Enough is enough!” to the super-wealthy, elections-manipulating Citizens United crowd.

Although a life-long Independent, he will run as a Democrat so it is easier for him to get on the primary ballot in all 50 states. He's not inclined to criticize Hillary Clinton, he says, as he considers her someone he likes and respects but sees as a “serious problem”—the millions of dollars flowing into the Clinton Foundation, presumed by many to secure favors through Clinton connections.

Sanders could also challenge Hillary due to her support for the war with Iraq and her unwillingness to deny support to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement which he staunchly opposes due to anticipated American job losses and salary reductions due to the notoriously low wages in partnership nations, just like the consequences of NAFTA. Then,

too, Sanders wants to take action on the political class of which Hillary is a long-standing member, with a lot of support

from Wall Street, and thereby enact a “real political shakeup in this country.” Of course, how he'd persuade a GOP Congress to go along remains a big question.

He has raised a few million dollars since announcing his campaign in April, and has done so without a super PAC at the rate of average contribution amounting to \$45. He sees himself as a socialist which won't help him in a country where socialism is widely considered threateningly un-American, even though we have many a farmer, banker, manufacturer and others who receive help big-time from the U.S. government.

Sanders has won, under the Independent designation, elections for mayor of Burlington, Vermont, the U.S. House and the senate while espousing his views. When asked about socialism he likes to cite the examples of Denmark, Norway and Sweden as nations where everyone has health care, a post-secondary education is free and warring is anathema.

If there is such a thing as a presidential look, Sanders has little chance of passing that litmus test as he is stoop-shouldered, usually wears a head of tussled hair and presents a Brooklyn-accent, which we know out west is a foreign place. Nevertheless, when he's

heard to speak on his convictions, the listener quickly realizes this guy is no flake and, though in his early 70s, not one by whom age or energy has apparently slowed.

Should he succeed at securing the Democratic nod, he will face in debate the GOP nominee who could be one of the many among that party's neo-con or Tea Party look-alikes, dedicated contenders who are known for their determination to eradicate all things wrought under the administrations of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Lyndon Baines Johnson. A debate by him with one of these Koch brothers' disciples and other billionaires with abundant cash would be worthy of every American's time and attention as progressive gains like social security, Medicare, civil rights laws and negotiated treaties are promised termination by each neo-con contender, should any one of them be charge of the nation's fate.

Someone like Bernie Sanders, with his progressive views right out of Scandinavia, where the Danish-Norwegian-Swedish dream is generally made possible, may sound good to many an American nowadays who finds fewer and fewer opportunities to embrace the American dream. Sanders, however, would only be electable in a very different U.S.: One where a majority cared for and did something about the welfare of all Americans and in a nation where the rich didn't have an absolute stranglehold on the members of Congress who no longer serve as representatives of the people.

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

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