

KeizerOpinion

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How do we replace Haggen?

After a big announcement about its move into Keizer, then several days of remodeling, Haggen Food grocery opened its doors. The store went from stodgy to brighter and looser. Alas, it was not to last. Haggen's Keizer store will close in October.

It wasn't anything Keizer shoppers did or didn't do—it all has to do with business in America today. The Keizer location was one of 146 former Safeway or Albertsons stores spun off by the equity firm that owns them.

With a good reputation in its home territory of northwest Washington state, Haggen management saw an opportunity to join the big guys and own stores throughout the west. It seems safe to conclude that Haggen decided that not all 146 stores it bought were winners and made the quick decision to rid itself of 27 stores it did not want. That's business.

Shoppers can bemoan Keizer being a one-store grocery store. In actuality a majority of Keizer shoppers head to discount grocers such as Costco, Winco and Walmart. Neighborhood mom-and-pop markets gave way to grocery stores which gave way to discount mega-grocery stores. Business will always find a path to the consumer's wallet—the grocery industry is no different. Food stores operate on thin margins so maximizing every dollar in sales is paramount, be it inside the store or by the whole operation, closing underperforming stores, locating stores in high income areas.

Social media was filled with comments about the closing of Haggen and desires for its successor. The stores people want to see replace Haggen at Creekside Shopping Center are un-

likely to consider the site due mainly to its size.

If there is no immediate replacement come October there will be two major retail holes on River Road including the former Roth's Fresh Market space at Schoolhouse Square. That's two too many.

The nearly 40,000 residents of Keizer will have one grocery store to shop. This is certainly a perfect opportunity for the Keizer Economic Development Commission and the Keizer Chamber of Commerce to show their mettle and work tirelessly to recruit a grocery store to Creekside Shopping Center. That may not be such an easy task.

The consolidation of the industry has left fewer mid-market grocers. Unfortunately Keizer does not have the demographics that is attractive to a Whole Foods or a Zupan's Market. There is a cry for a discount grocer in Keizer; that's why some people were so excited when it was thought Walmart would build at Keizer Station. Yet there is no discount grocery store on the horizon for Area C.

There are smaller grocery chains that can be a good fit for Keizer: Ray's Food Place, a 43-store chain based in southern Oregon (they have a store in Sisters) or Chuck's Produce and Street Market from Vancouver. The local organizations we look toward to maintain and increase Keizer's economic vitality should leave no stone unturned in recruiting a second grocery store for Keizer.

It is not good for Keizer or its residents to have only one grocery store nor two large holes in our retail landscape. —LAZ

A beautiful Blue day

Saturday, Aug. 22, will be a bright and sunny day. It will be beautiful not only weather-wise but because McNary High School will unveil its new artificial turf at Flesher Field during Blue Day.

This will be the fourth Blue Day staged by the McNary High School Athletic Booster Club. The club has planned and raised funds for the big project that will allow 10 times as many events to be held at the stadium.

The former grass field was not always user friendly, especially in our wet weather in the fall and spring. The marching band could not practice on it because hundreds of tromping feet over time turned the field into a muddy, mushy mess.

Now the band can practice to its heart's content on the field. The football, soccer and lacrosse teams will be able to practice and play without worry.

Blue Day is not only the unveiling of the new turf. It is an opportunity for the community to gather and support the many teams of the school, enjoy barbecue and celebrate what makes Keizer a good place to live: neighbors and friends joining together to make a vision become reality.

Blue Day will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendance is free but donations will eagerly be accepted by the Booster Club. —LAZ

Good feeling about Rep. Post

To the Editor:

Even though we're registered in different parties, I came away with a good feeling about Rep. Bill Post (*Post talks about first year in Capitol, Keizertimes, Aug. 14*).

A couple of really positive things stood out. So, let me get one "partisan" issue out of the way. He stated: "Business will always make the right choice. We don't need government to tell us." Business is *always* right? Squinting on that one. We do need some government, though less of it.

When Rep. Post said, "The majority party uses Sine Die as a tool. If there was a Republican majority and this happened, I'll still stand up and say this is wrong," my response was a loud yes. Sine Die is bad legislating, bad politics, and thanks to him for being willing to make such a pledge, and

letters

do it publicly to boot.

Last, this met me on several levels: "I was the first Republican to get a bill signed

by the governor (Kate Brown)," Post said. "It was a pro-business bill to get rid of some restrictions. The governor and I have a unique relationship. She really likes me for some reason, even though we are opposites. She showed us freshmen around and took me by the arm. She said, 'I know I can count on you for the transportation package, right?' I said 'No.' She said, 'That's why I like you.'"

Genuineness, likeability, and integrity of both these individuals really showed through in this comment. Until I send in my next ballot I wish Bill Post all the best in his Capitol seat. **Ardith Oakes Keizer**



Hunting for a miracle on global warming

By MICHAEL GERSON

In recognition that internet questionnaires get more eyeballs than earnest columns on energy policy, here is today's quiz on obscure presidential history: When President George W. Bush met Bill Gates for the first time, the topic of discussion was (A) nuclear power, (B) rural internet access, (C) global health, or (D) all of those subjects, in considerable depth, in that order.

Those who find "D" surprising don't get the concept of leading test questions, and don't know much about either participant. As a fly on the wall at their lunch, I watched two men with a wonkish interest in energy policy talk over my head for 15 or 20 minutes about nuclear power plant design. (Gates has since become a major investor in one design that would utilize depleted uranium, essentially running on its own waste.)

One of Gates' contributions as a public-minded billionaire—as opposed to turning the Republican presidential nomination process into a second-rate reality television show—is to bring a dose of reality to the achievement of large humanitarian goals. The (almost) end of polio. The vaccination of children on a global scale.

In the case of energy, rigor requires rethinking. Gates is ruthless (and not always politically correct) in pressing the assumptions of the environmental movement to their logical conclusion. If climate scientists are right about the pace of global warming, and about the total amount of CO₂ that humans can emit in the future without potentially catastrophic consequences, then we currently do not have feasible policy responses that are adequate to the need, even

other views

if we had far greater political will.

By some estimates, the world must keep two-thirds of its carbon-based energy resources in the ground—at the same time that vast numbers of people in China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Brazil and elsewhere move toward middle-class levels of energy consumption. Gates makes the point in another way. If the goal, as some scientists urge, is an 80 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2050, then it will be necessary "to reduce emissions from transportation and electrical production in participating countries down to zero."

Behavior change—shutting off the lights, turning off the air conditioner—is useful, but not even in the ballpark of responding to this need. Neither are the subsidies that governments provide to renewables such as solar and wind power. The cost of meeting future energy requirements with existing green technologies would be "beyond astronomical," Gates has argued.

There was no way to get to the moon by stacking ladders. That required an entirely different technology. Current environmental responses are the stacking of ladders. "We need breakthroughs," says Gates.

It is sobering when your only sufficient policy response is the production of a miracle. But I'll add a few more depressing political and economic factors. Human beings are fairly good at calculating costs into their decision-making (saving for a rainy day, buying car insurance) if the time horizon is a few months or

a few years. They are not as good at assuming burdens, as in environmental policy, when the time horizon is a few decades or centuries. And they are terrible at shouldering burdens when future costs are paid disproportionately by other people—in this case by people living in poor countries that are more vulnerable to coastal flooding or drought.

So how do we get technological miracles at a realistic social and economic cost? Only by dramatically increased investment in basic research and development. Gates (matching money to mouth) has pledged to increase his personal investments in green technologies by \$1 billion over the next five years. But sufficient scale only comes from government. So he has also recommended that U.S. investments in basic energy technology be more than tripled -- from about \$5 billion to \$16 billion a year.

Even at this level, energy research funding would lag well behind defense and health research. But the increase would allow some impressive scientists to fully explore a variety of speculative options: things like flying wind turbines that collect energy from the jet stream; or reverse engineering photosynthesis to produce usable energy; or batteries with dramatically increased storage capacity; or new nuclear designs that overcome the problem of radioactive waste.

This amounts to a series of informed bets. But all can be made at a relatively affordable cost, partially recovered by shifting funds from existing energy subsidies. Collectively, these kinds of bets may be our best shot at the miracle we require. (Washington Post Writers Group)

2016 candidates rattle the war saber

gene h. mcintyre

support positions.

President Obama has not kept his word on getting our troops out of the Middle East.

We find among the Republican candidates who seek to replace Obama that they mainly have morphed into the party of war with Hillary Clinton as a hawk competing to outdo them. Take, for example, Donald Trump. On entering the race he immediately trumped the competition that he is nothing less than a genius in military matters who will find a military leader like George Patton or Douglas MacArthur to place the U.S. military into the win column. Regarding ISIS, he would "bomb the hell out of them and take back the oil."

This plan would require a huge number of American military personnel whose numbers will have to be sacrificed. As Trump said: "You let Mobil (Oil) go in and you let our great oil companies go in. Once you take that oil, they (ISIS) have nothing left." This from a guy who has several grown children, none of which have served in uniform. Trump himself has never served in uniform.

Candidate Rick Santorum calls for 10,000 Americans to go into Iraq who was promptly trumped by Senator Lindsey Graham who saw Santorum's 10,000 and wants an additional 10,000 sent into Syria. Neither one has served in the American armed forces. Jeb Bush comes across as one who doesn't know whether the invasion and consequences in Iraq was a

bad idea. There are many Bush family members but only one has served with distinction in uniform and that was George H.W. Bush during World War II as a Navy pilot.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker once compared fighting ISIS to fighting the labor unions in his state. He says he would not only tear up the Iranian nuclear deal his first day in the White House but would start a war with Iran between his swearing-in ceremony and Inaugural ball that night. In other words, he's going to trump Trump. Several others among the current 17 have made statements that go far beyond mere thoughts of glorious leadership as the commander-in-chief but have defined specific action measures certain to get us into World War III.

I believe Hillary Clinton is as war-inclined as most of the Republican candidates are. I've yet to hear such declarations of certain conflict ventures overseas by the man who stands at this time as possibly most popular among Democratic voters. Where the others stand, including Lincoln Chafee, Martin O'Malley, and Jim Webb, is not known, resulting from the loss of air by Sen. Bernie Sanders and Trump. I just wonder how many of these people, the fanatics in the U.S. like those who got the WWII underway, who want to lead us into war by using the youth of the nation as cannon fodder to accomplish huge profits for the nation's largest corporations who've become a platoon of plutocrats.

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



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